

**PART I.**

---

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**WITH**

**HER MAJESTY'S EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE**

**RESPECTING THE**

**AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.**

---

*Presented to the House of Commons, by the Queen's Command, in pursuance of their  
Address to Her Majesty of the 28th February, 1843.*

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PART I.

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CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE,

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

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No. 1.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 12.)*

(Extract.)

*Therapia, May 23, 1841.*

I HAVE this evening, (and fortunately in time for the messenger,) extremely bad news from Syria. I must be as brief as possible. Rechid Pasha sent as Governor to Damascus Hadji Nejib Pasha, a man who had been during many years Kapou Kiaja to Mehemet Ali (Pasha of Egypt). He has ordered the Christians not to enter Damascus on horseback, and prohibited the wearing any coloured clothes of a light and gay colour, and to dress in black as in former days. He has appointed Sheik Abdul Hadi Governor of Gaza and Muhassil of the surrounding districts. Abdul Hadi is the man who first assisted Ibrahim to take St. Jean d'Acre, and lately, as Mudir, or Supreme Superintendent of the fortress, defended it against the Sultan. He is known to be a traitor and a friend to Mehemet Ali. This appointment made by Nejib gives Abdul Hadi the opportunity of delivering up Gaza to Mehemet Ali, and aiding in restoring Syria to him. Nejib is attacking some of the Emirs of Mount Lebanon because they have refused to tax the inhabitants above their means to pay. Thus Nejib is betraying the Sultan. I write solely to request that you will send for Chekib Effendi, and desire him to write to the Porte and insist upon the punishment of Nejib; his degradation is not enough. An example is absolutely necessary, and one too of great severity. I entreat you to speak in the strongest terms to Chekib, for it is too bad that Nejib should be permitted to insult the Christians to whom his Sovereign is indebted for Syria, and be the cause of undoing all that we have done with so much trouble, for assuredly Syria will revolt if these men are allowed to act so as to irritate the whole Syrian nation.

I will here speak in the strongest terms to the Porte, and I dare say I shall succeed, but I shall want the assistance of your declaration to Chekib, and pray remember to tell him that you inform me of all you have said to him.

I will give you other details of the ill conduct of the men sent to Syria.

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No.

*Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, June 15, 1841.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 23rd of May, written as the messenger was about to be despatched from Therapia, containing accounts of the unsatisfactory state of things in Syria, in consequence of the injudicious appointments made by the Turkish Government and its subordinate authorities, and I have in consequence addressed to Chekib Effendi, the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, a note of which I inclose a copy for your Excellency's information.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 2.

*Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.**Foreign Office, June 15, 1841.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to inform Chekib Effendi, &c., that Her Majesty's Government have just received with great concern the following information, which, as it bears upon the stability of the dominion of the Sultan in Syria, the Undersigned hastens to communicate to Chekib Effendi.

It appears that Hadji Nejib Pasha has been appointed by the Porte to be Governor of Damascus, although he had been many years in the service of Mehemet Ali, Pasha of Egypt, and was on that account not the fittest person to command in an important city in Syria; and Her Majesty's Government have been informed that Nejib Pasha has begun his administration by edicts offensive to the Christians, whom he has ordered not to appear in the streets of Damascus on horseback, and not to wear clothes of any light or gay colour, but to dress themselves entirely in black.

Hadji Nejib Pasha has, moreover, appointed Sheik Abdul Hadi to be the Governor of Gaza and the Muhassil of the neighbouring districts; and this Sheik Abdul is stated to be the individual who first assisted Ibrahim Pasha to take the fortress of Acre, and who lately, as Mudir, or Supreme Superintendent, defended that fortress against the arms of the Sultan; he is also considered to be still attached to Mehemet Ali. Abdul Hadi, by the situation which he holds, has the power of delivering up Gaza to Mehemet Ali whenever he pleases, and of thus assisting to restore Syria to the Pasha of Egypt.

Hadji Nejib is further accused of oppressing some of the Emirs of Mount Lebanon, because those Emirs have refused to tax the inhabitants of their districts beyond their means of payment.

If these allegations be true, and there is good reason to believe them to be so, there can be no doubt that Hadji Nejib is employing the influence which he derives from his situation as Governor of Damascus, to undermine the Sultan's authority in Syria; and the Undersigned cannot too urgently press Chekib Effendi to advise his Government, not only to dismiss Hadji Nejib from his office, but also to submit his conduct to legal inquiry, in order that he may be duly punished, if it should be proved that he has transgressed the law or violated his duty towards the Sultan.

Her Majesty's Government feel especially called upon to address the Turkish Government on this matter, because of the oppressions which Hadji Nejib is stated to practise upon the Christians. For England having, in conjunction with other Christian Powers, succeeded in restoring Syria to the

Sultan, she is entitled to expect that the Sultan, in return for such assistance, should secure his Christian subjects from oppression. The Undersigned, moreover, need scarcely point out to Chekib Effendi, that if a system of oppression is practised against the Christians in Syria, the consequence will be that the people will revolt against the authority of the Sultan; and such a revolt would be an encouragement to the discontented of all classes to rebel. And how could the Sultan expect the countenance or support of the Christian Powers in maintaining his authority, if the opposition to his authority was provoked by severities and cruelties inflicted on his Christian subjects?

The Undersigned earnestly requests Chekib Effendi to call the serious attention of his Government to these matters without delay; and he has the honour to inform Chekib Effendi that a messenger will be despatched to-morrow evening to Constantinople, by whom any communication which Chekib Effendi may think proper to make to his Government on these matters might be conveyed.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

No. 3.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 26.)*

(Extract.)

*Therapia, June 8, 1841.*

ON the 4th instant I had an interview at Pera with the Internuncio and Monsieur de Titow, to concert the measures to be adopted with regard to Syria. Mr. Wood and Monsieur Laurin were present. It was agreed to advise the Porte:—

1. To remit all illegal taxes, in accordance with the promises made to the Syrians.

2. To appoint a Governor of Jerusalem for the special purpose of affording protection to Christians, and of adjusting the disputes that might arise between the different sects.

3. To issue positive orders to all Ottoman functionaries in Syria, to abstain from opposing any impediment whatever to the free exercise by Christians of the rites of their religion.

4. To allow the Emir Beshir to have a Kapou Kiaja at Constantinople, in order to establish a direct communication between him as Governor of Lebanon and the Ottoman Ministers.

5. To procure from the Sublime Porte acknowledgments of the services rendered by various Syrians in the late war, and rewards.

It was agreed between us that our object should be to obtain from the Porte security for every right enjoyed by the Syrians, and to endeavour to establish as far as possible something like justice in the administration of the affairs of Syria, by the Pashas and other officers of the Porte.

It was agreed that each of us should take his own measures with the Porte in furtherance of the general principles above stated, and on the 5th in the morning, Mr. Wood carried to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a report I had caused him to make upon the subject. The Internuncio has also acted in perfect concurrence with these principles, and the result is that the Minister has agreed to our propositions, with the exception of one point, that relating to the Kapou Kiaja of the Emir Beshir, namely, the Minister declines permitting the Emir to appoint his Kiaja, and insists upon the nomination of a Turk by the Porte to occupy that post.

It is impossible to give details of these affairs with any accuracy until they have been finally settled, but I inclose for your Lordship's information copy of a letter, dated this day, from Mr. Wood. Your Lordship will be so good as to bear in mind that Mr. Wood had no idea his letter would be made known to you, and he is to be excused, therefore, for expressing his opinion with a freedom to me which I authorize and encourage in all whom I have to employ in the public service.

I regret to say that the reports I receive of the state of affairs in Syria are very unpleasant.

Nejib Pasha, Governor of Damascus, has reimposed upon the Christians many of the restraints upon their actions by which the old Government of the Turks was rendered odious to them. He has ordered that the Christians shall not enter Damascus on horseback, nor wear clothes of any light and lively colour, and that they shall observe some particular modes of salutation expressive of inferiority, when any Turkish functionary is in question; but these vexatious follies are light in comparison with the demand he has caused the Defterdar to make upon the mountaineers for a large sum of money as an impost; a sum, which the Emir Beshir has refused to ask the mountaineers to pay, saying, that the power of the Seraskier and his own united is not sufficient to force them to submit to the exaction.

The moment I heard of this conduct I applied to Rifaat Pasha for his interference to put an end to it, but I regret that I found little disposition to take the necessary steps, and I have been obliged to repeat several times and in very strong language, a demand that Syria should not be thrown into rebellion for the sake of pleasing Nejib Pasha. At last I learn that Rifaat has got the Sublime Porte to write to Nejib saying that strong complaints have been made against his conduct, and ordering him in the most peremptory manner to conduct himself towards every description of subjects with the greatest kindness.

I have desired to be furnished with a copy of the letter.

I beg your Lordship will tell Chekib Effendi that you demand the recall of Nejib Pasha. It is necessary that the British Government should take a very high tone with the Porte, or Syria will be lost by the timidity of the Ottoman Ministers, who are afraid of giving offence to individuals like Nejib, or his protectors, and the loss of Syria will be the consequence. I think things of minor importance had best not be asked for and that details should not be dictated, but assuredly England has the right to insist that Syria—the restoration of which to the dominion of the Sultan is the work of England—should not be thrown away to gratify the will of a Pasha, and that the Syrians who acted upon the faith of Englishmen's declarations, should not be defrauded or robbed of their rights to gratify the avarice of a few Turkish agents.

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Inclosure in No. 3.

*Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.*

(Extract.)

*Pera, June 8, 1841.*

AFTER I had the honour of writing yesterday to your Lordship, the Baron de Stürmer desired to see me; and in order to convince him that the propositions made to the Porte were in accordance with what was agreed at his house to be done, I took with me the Turkish memorandum I gave Rifaat Pasha. I remained with him an hour, and gave him all the information he desired. He appeared perfectly satisfied with my explanations, for he gave his dragoman orders before me to assure Rifaat Pasha that he perfectly embraced your Lordship's propositions and views, which were also his own.

Immediately after I repaired to the Porte, to ascertain the Council's reply to the propositions, and was told by Rifaat Pasha that it had adopted all, except the one relating to the Emir and the Patriarch's Kapou Kiajas. MM. Pisani and Testa were with me, and we positively remained four hours with Rifaat Pasha arguing the point.

The Porte objects to their having a Kapou Kiaja at Constantinople, and proposes that they should have each one with the Defterdar in Syria. I told them that I felt certain that neither the Emir nor the Patriarch would consent to it, as their object was to have an agent at the Porte to communicate the misconduct of the Defterdar and of the Pasha, if necessary. Every argument was used to convince them of the erroneous view they had taken of it; and it was agreed finally that another Council should be held on Wednesday to reconsider the matter under certain modifications: which are, that in the

event the Porte consents to the Emir's having a Kapou Kiaja at Constantinople, he shall be appointed by the Porte, and shall be moreover a Turk. M. Testa said he could not oppose this, though his original instructions were that the Kapou Kiaja should be elected by the Emir. I replied that my instructions were the same, and that I would not consent to the modifications before I communicated with your Lordship. The Kapou Kijas of the Pashas are appointed by the Porte and of course Turks. The Emir ought not to expect to enjoy any right the other Pashas do not enjoy; the object would be attained equally as well, and the Porte would make fewer objections to it; but I am very anxious to have your Lordship's directions thereon. Rifaat Pasha declared again that only the Princes of Servia, Wallachia, and Moldavia, and Samos, had the right of selecting and appointing their own Kapou Kijas, and that the Porte would never consent to place the Emir in the same independent condition, which affected the independence of the Turkish Government.

I shall see the Grand Vizier to-day respecting the Kapou Kiaja of the Patriarch. I expect to meet with less opposition in procuring the consent of the Porte; but in the event it refuses its assent, and proposes that he should have one with the Defterdar in Syria, what does your Lordship direct me to do in that case? for M. Testa and myself are determined, if possible, to get these affairs settled before the departure of the next steamer.

No. 4.

*Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, July 3, 1841.*

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a further note which I have addressed to Chekib Effendi, in consequence of what is stated in your Excellency's despatch of the 8th of June, respecting the exactions of Nejib Pasha in Syria.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 4.

*Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.*

*Foreign Office, July 2, 1841.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to state to Chekib Effendi, &c., that since the date of the note which he addressed to his Excellency on the 15th of June, Her Majesty's Government have received further information, by which it appears that Nejib Pasha, of Damascus, not content with inflicting many intolerable vexations upon the Christian population of Damascus and its neighbourhood, has called upon the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon to pay large sums of money, far exceeding what they are able to pay, and notwithstanding that Selim Pasha, the commander of the Sultan's forces in Syria, had, as the people of Lebanon allege, promised, at the commencement of the struggle with the Egyptian forces, that the district of Lebanon should be free from taxes for three years, if the people should cordially and effectively assist the Sultan in expelling the troops and authorities of Mehemet Ali.

The Undersigned earnestly requests Chekib Effendi to represent to the Porte that such exactions must alienate the minds of the Syrian people from the Sultan, and must necessarily incline them to listen to designing men who seek to overthrow the authority which the Sultan, by the assistance of his Allies, has re-established in Syria.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 5.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 9.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, June 15, 1841.*

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from the Grand Vizier to Nejib Pasha, Governor of Damascus, written in consequence of representations made to the Sublime Porte of the misconduct of that Pasha. It will appear that the despatch is wanting in precision in stating the orders of the Porte peremptorily, but I am assured that this has been done designedly, to save offering an indignity to a high officer, in a document that is necessarily public, and that secret orders have been sent to Nejib, and the other Pashas, much more precise and much more rigorous.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) **PONSONBY.**

Inclosure in No. 5.

*The Grand Vizier to Nejib Pasha.*

(Traduction.)

NOUS nous occupons des réponses qu'il sera nécessaire de donner à plusieurs dépêches de votre Excellence.

Dans une de vos dépêches que nous venons de recevoir, il est dit que, considérant que ne pas accepter les chevaux donnés par quelques Sheiks à votre Excellence, ainsi qu'au Desterdar Envery Effendi, ce serait établir un usage, ce qui ne serait pas convenable, vous les avez reçus en donnant une compensation.

Mais dans une lettre que je vous ai écrite dernièrement, je vous ai parlé longuement et dans une manière particulière du bruit qui court que vos gens et ceux du Desterdar se font donner de l'argent (comme moyen de corruption) pour faire aller certaines affaires. Je vous ai dit en même temps, que nous ne croyons pas que votre Excellence fasse une chose pareille, mais que cependant si vos gens ou ceux du Desterdar se trouvent avoir pris quelque argent comme ci-dessus, il fallait que cet argent fût rendu sur le champ à ceux qui l'avaient donné, en prenant soin que des choses pareilles n'arrivent plus; choses contraires à notre attente.

La bonne opinion et la confiance que nous avons en vous, ne nous permettent pas de croire que, sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse, votre Excellence daignera faire des choses qui sont contraires à la volonté de la Sublime Porte; et il est clair que dans toutes les occasions vous aurez soin de donner des preuves de désintéressement et d'honnêteté. Mais on vient de nous faire savoir de nouveau, que vos gens et ceux du Desterdar prennent actuellement encore de l'argent, (présent servant à corrompre,) et que c'est par ce moyen là que l'on a donné des places à Suliman Abdul Hadi, à Mohammed El Hadi, à Abdul Fetah, et au Sheik Said; que l'on maltraite les hommes qui ont des affaires à représenter; qu'on traite les Chrétiens avec mépris,—on les moleste par rapport à leur habillement, et on les empêche de monter à cheval; qu'il y a d'autres abus semblables; que toutes les affaires sont dans les mains de vos gens; et que vous avez pris des environs de Damas jusqu'à 150 chevaux.

Les véritables intentions de Sa Majesté Impériale et de tous les Ministres de la Sublime Porte, sont que toutes les classes de sujets,—sans exception, soient également protégés contre toute injustice et à l'abri de toute vexation; et particulièrement que dans ces pays là, on observe tous les principes de justice, et l'on tienne les procédés les plus doux, les plus bienveillants, afin de ne pas donner lieu à la moindre plainte. Enfin, nous tenons beaucoup à ce que la meilleure administration soit exercée, et que les rayas soient protégés.



Votre Excellence est un homme sage et éclairé ; un des plus illustres Vizirs de l'Empire. Elle ne souffrira donc pas que dans les temps délicats où nous nous trouvons, il arrive des choses contraires à la volonté souveraine ; et votre sagacité nous est garante que dans chaque occasion vous vous conformerez aux circonstances et mettrez vos soins à répandre les bienfaits de la protection et de la justice. Supposé, par exemple, que des hommes à votre service prennent de l'argent comme prix de corruption, vous les leur défendrez, vous les chasserez, vous les en punirez. Et après tout, puisqu'on parle de ces choses là, il se peut bien qu'elles ne soient point tout-à-fait dénuées de fondement. L'acceptation, d'ailleurs, des chevaux dont il a été parlé plus haut, corrobore les faits dont on parle. Si vos gens, ou ceux du Defterdar, ont pris des cadeaux de corruption, il faut qu'ils soient restitués à ceux qui les ont donnés ; et nous avons donné au Defterdar d'Acre, Edhem Bey, les instructions nécessaires à cet égard ; celle-ci étant une affaire de grande importance.

Il n'est pas possible que les communications faites par les agents de quelques Puissances amies soient destituées de fondement d'un bout à l'autre ; or, quand une petite partie en serait vraie, croyez quel tort cela fait à nos intérêts.

Votre Excellence tâchera de faire tout ce qu'il faut pour rendre aimable aux yeux des populations l'administration exercée par la Sublime Porte.

Quoiqu'il en soit, considérant que les chevaux reçus sont déjà reçus, et voulant conserver votre influence morale, on vous dispense de rendre des chevaux pris il y a déjà quelque temps, et pour lesquels on a donné une compensation. Mais on rendra sans délai les autres objets, en donnant à chacun le sien. Vous arrangerez désormais chaque affaire suivant les règles de l'équité et comme elle mérite de l'être ; et vous aurez soin qu'il n'arrive plus des choses contraires à la volonté de la Sublime Porte. Désormais, ni votre Excellence, ni le Defterdar, ni vos gens, ni les siens, ne recevrez ni des chevaux ni d'autres objets. Et comme alors aucune compensation ne sera nécessaire, vous ne donnerez rien en retour ; votre Excellence ne négligera point les affaires de l'un et de l'autre : elle s'en occupera elle-même ; elle répandra les bienfaits de la justice, et en agissant de la sorte, elle fera briser, avec son administration particulière, celle de la Sublime Porte.

Votre Excellence aura soin de prendre des mesures énergiques tendant à ce que les gens à son service particulier se comportent de manière à ne causer aucun préjudice à qui que ce soit ; et surtout, à ce qu'ils ne reçoivent point des cadeaux (faits pour gagner ceux à qui ils sont donnés), des cadeaux de cette nature étant une chose abominable, une chose nuisible et dans ce monde et dans l'autre. Et, de concert avec le Defterdar, vous vous efforcerez dans toutes les occasions, de faire en sorte à ne vous attirer dans les affaires que vous aurez à traiter, aucune responsabilité personnelle ; étant à ces fins que je vous écris cette lettre.

(Translation.)

WE are occupied with the answers which it will be necessary to give to several of your Excellency's despatches.

In one of your despatches which we have just received, it is stated that, considering that not to accept the horses given by some Sheiks to your Excellency, as well as to the Defterdar Envery Effendi, would be to establish a custom, which would not be proper, you have taken them, giving compensation for them.

But in a letter which I lately wrote to you, I spoke at length and in a particular manner of the report which is current that your people and those of the Defterdar get money given to them (as a means of corruption) to make certain affairs proceed. I said to you at the same time, that we do not believe that your Excellency would do such a thing, but that, nevertheless, if your people, or those of the Defterdar, are found to have taken any money, as above stated, that money should be returned immediately to those who had given it, taking care that such things should not occur again ; things contrary to our expectation.

The good opinion and the confidence which we have in you, do not allow us to believe that, under the auspices of His Highness, your Excellency will condescend to do things which are contrary to the will of the Sublime Porte ; and it is evident that on all occasions you will take care to give proofs of disinterestedness and honesty. But we have just been again informed, that your people and those of the Defterdar actually still take money, (presents serving to corrupt,) and that it is by such means that places have been given to Suliman Abdul Hadi, to Mohammed El Hadi, to Abdul Fetah, and to the Sheik Said ; that persons are ill treated who have affairs to represent ; that the Christians are treated with contempt,—are molested as to their dress, and are prevented from riding on horseback ; that other similar abuses exist ; that all affairs are in the hands of your people ; and that you have taken 160 horses from the neighbourhood of Damascus.

The real intentions of His Imperial Majesty and of all the Ministers of the Sublime Porte are, that all classes of subjects, without exception, should be equally protected against all injustice and sheltered from all oppression ; and particularly that in those countries all the principles of justice should be observed, and that the mildest and kindest conduct should be pursued, in order that no cause might be given for the slightest complaint. In short, we are very anxious that the best Government should be carried on, and that the Rayahs should be protected.

Your Excellency is a wise and enlightened man ; one of the most illustrious Viziers of the Empire. You will not therefore suffer that in the critical times in which we find ourselves, circumstances should occur contrary to the sovereign will ; and your penetration is an assurance to us that on every occasion you will conform to circumstances, and will use your efforts to diffuse the benefits of protection and justice. Suppose, for instance, that men in your service take money as the price of corruption, you will prohibit them from doing so ; you will discharge them ; you will punish them for it. And, after all, as these things are spoken of, it is possible that they may not be quite destitute of foundation. Moreover, the acceptance of the horses above-mentioned corroborates the facts spoken of. If your people, or those of the Defterdar, have accepted presents of corruption, they must be restored to those who gave them ; and we have given to the Defterdar of Acre, Edhem Bey, the necessary instructions in this respect ; this being an affair of great importance.

It is not possible that the communications made by the agents of some friendly Powers should be destitute of foundation from beginning to end ; but, if a small part of them should be true, think what injury that does to our interests.

Your Excellency will endeavour to do all that is necessary to render the Government carried on by the Sublime Porte agreeable in the eyes of the people.

However, considering that the horses are already accepted, and wishing to preserve your moral influence, you are excused from returning the horses taken some time since, and for which compensation has been given. But the other articles shall be restored without delay, every body being given his own. You will henceforward arrange every affair according to the rules of justice, and according to its merits ; and you will take care that circumstances contrary to the will of the Sublime Porte do not again occur. Henceforward, neither your Excellency, nor the Defterdar, nor your people, nor his, will accept either horses or other articles. And as in that case no compensation will be necessary, you will give nothing in return ; your Excellency will not neglect the affairs of any body ; you will yourself attend to them ; you will diffuse the benefits of justice, and, acting in this manner, you will cause the Government of the Sublime Porte, as well as your particular Government, to be blessed.

Your Excellency will be careful to take strong measures in order that the people in your private service may conduct themselves so as to cause no injury to any body whatever, and, above all, in order that they may not accept presents (made to gain over those to whom they are given), presents of that nature being an abomination, hurtful both in this and in the other

world. And, in concert with the Dostordar, you will endeavour on all occasions, to act so as not to incur any personal responsibility in the affairs which you will have to deal with ; it being for these objects that I write this letter to you.

## No. 6.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 9.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, June 16, 1841.*

I THINK the affairs of Syria are settled in a satisfactory manner. I will report to your Lordship on the subject next week.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) PONSOMBY.

## No. 7.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 8.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, June 21, 1841.*

I THINK it proper to lay before your Lordship materials for the better formation of a judgment of the arrangements made for Syria, and of the difficulties that have been encountered and overcome. These materials are some letters and reports by Mr. Wood, explanatory of affairs, and also of his execution of my instructions to him. I beg leave to say that whilst I assign to Mr. Wood the merit of these arrangements, for the most stringent and effective parts of them are due to him, I will not refuse the entire responsibility of what has been done, as every bit of it was carefully examined by me, and alterations made where I thought change necessary.

I trust your Lordship will perceive and be contented with the ability and courage shown by Mr. Wood.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) PONSOMBY.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

*Memorandum of Propositions agreed upon at a Conference at Therapia, respecting Syria.*

AT a conference of their Excellencies the Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Stürmer and M. Titow, it was agreed upon that the following five propositions should be made to the Sublime Porte :—

1. That the Turkish Government should execute faithfully the promises it made to the Syrians, of re-establishing their ancient rights and privileges, in the event that they returned to their allegiance, &c.

The Sublime Porte has declared formally its intention of doing so. Instructions and orders will be transmitted to its officers, to allow the Syrians, and particularly the Christians, to enjoy the rights and privileges they enjoyed during the Egyptian administration, with such modifications as the Turkish law requires.

2. That the Turkish Government should be persuaded to repeal all illegal taxes in Syria, as well as all such taxes as were with justice obnoxious to the people.

The Sublime Porte had already transmitted instructions to the above

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effect, but as it does not appear they were properly understood, a new Defterdar has been appointed, with extraordinary powers, to examine into the complaints of the Syrians, remit all illegal taxation, and report his opinion with regard to what ought further to be done to relieve them from unnecessary burdens, &c.

3. That as the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch requested each to have a Kapou Kiaja, the Sublime Porte should be prevailed upon to accede to their request.

The Sublime Porte has complied with their demand, and each is to have his agent to communicate direct with the Ottoman Ministers.

4. That a "Firik" should be appointed to the Government of Jerusalem, for the special protection of the Christians, &c.

The Sublime Porte has consented to make this special appointment for the tranquillity and happiness of its Rayah subjects, &c.

5. That the Sublime Porte should be induced to reward the Sheiks and other individuals who served faithfully during the war.

The Sublime Porte has given a list of the individuals to be rewarded, to his Excellency the Defterdar, with strict orders to reward them on his arrival in Syria.

(Signed) **RICHARD WOOD.**

*Therapia*, May 12, 1841.

#### Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

#### *Memorandum on Syrian Affairs.*

LETTERS from Syria that have reached to-day, contain the following particulars:—

"Nejib Pasha has ordered that the Christians are not henceforward to enter Damascus on horseback. He has ordered them besides to wear black instead of white turbans, and never to appear in clothes of a light colour.

"He has appointed Sheik Mohamed Abdul Hadi, Governor of Gaza and Muhassil of the surrounding districts; Sheik Mohamed Abdul Hadi assisted Ibrahim Pasha in 1831 to take Acre, and has, in the late campaign, defended that fortress personally against the allied forces. He is known to be a traitor, and a friend of Mehemet Ali. Nejib Pasha, therefore, by appointing him Governor of Gaza, which is on the borders of Egypt, has given him the facility of betraying Syria a second time into the hands of Ibrahim Pasha."

Nejib Pasha is about to deprive Emir Said-el-Deen and Emir Effendi of the command of their districts in Anti-Lebanon, because they refuse to tax the mountaineers beyond what they can pay.

These two Emirs served most gallantly in the late campaign against the Egyptians, have a right to the command of their districts, and will not give them up without a struggle.

The Musteshar Effendi has asked the Emir Beshir to pay him a tribute of five thousand purses annually, but the Emir has refused to accede to the demand, stating that, were the attempt made to tax so heavily the mountaineers, they would revolt, in which case neither the Seraskier nor himself possessed the means of appeasing them. The Musteshar Effendi, however, persisted in his demand and the Emir offered his resignation; fortunately a third party interfered, and an arrangement was entered into. Should the Musteshar Effendi force the Emir to resign his government of Mount Lebanon, a civil war will immediately ensue between the Christians and Druses.

The discontent is growing general in Syria; the causes are too numerous to detail here; but the information received from different parts of the country tends to show that a revolt is not far distant.

*Therapia*, May 23, 1841.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 7.

*Mr. Wood to Rifuat Pasha.*

(Extrait.)

*Therapia, 23 Mai, 1841.*

JE m'empresse de répondre à la demande de votre Excellence de signaler par écrit quelques renseignemens sur la Syrie, ainsi que sur la conduite de quelques uns des employés de la Sublime Porte.

Le "Rishwet" (subornation) n'a été nullement aboli, et les Syriens se plaignent fortement qu'ils ne peuvent demander l'assistance des autorités locales pour leurs affaires sans qu'ils soient obligés de leur donner de l'argent en cadeau ; ce système est général, et quoiqu'il faut excepter quelques uns des hauts fonctionnaires, cependant presque la totalité de leurs employés sont susceptibles à être corrompus. Le Divan Effendissey et le Kiaya d'Ali Pacha, Ex-Gouverneur de Damas, se sont enrichis par ce moyen, et on dit que les employés d'Assaad Pacha, Gouverneur d'Alep, en font autant. Mais c'est de la vente des charges qu'on a le plus à craindre, puisqu'il en résulte trois graves inconvéniens : 1°. Le peu d'attention qu'on met dans le choix du nouveau employé. 2°. Ce dernier ayant acheté sa charge, il emploie sa nouvelle autorité, sans aucune peur, pour s'embourser des frais qu'il a faits. 3°. Le mécontentement que ces vexations cause parmi le peuple.

Outre que l'Armée en Syrie est extrêmement négligée, elle est dépourvue de tous les nécessaires. Elle a cinq mois d'arriérés à recevoir et elle n'a presque pas de commissariat, qui est du reste très mal organisé. Or, l'approvisionnement des troupes devient extrêmement difficile ; les paysans se trouvent forcés de fournir des vivres, et ils se plaignent à haute voix qu'ils ont à recevoir déjà 3,000 bourses que son Excellence le Moustéchar Effendi ne leur paie pas. Ils prétendent, par conséquent, que sur ce point ils sont tout autant vexés qu'ils l'étaient pendant l'administration Egyptienne.

J'en ai fait plusieurs représentations au Moustéchar Effendi, mais il m'a répondu toujours qu'il n'avait pas d'argent ; cependant je suis convaincu que son Excellence aurait pu faire des arrangemens qui auraient créé moins de mécontentement.

Les officiers de la Sublime Porte en Syrie traitent avec trop de dédain les habitans, ils ne font aucun cas de leurs représentations, et ils ne leur accordent pas l'assistance dans leurs affaires qu'ils ont le droit de réclamer. Cette conduite provenant des hauts fonctionnaires, a beaucoup aliéné l'affection des Syriens, et il est à craindre qu'il pourra bien finir par rendre leur dévouement à la Sublime Porte moins sincère qu'il ne l'était au commencement de la campagne. En outre, l'ignorance des Pachas de la langue, des mœurs et des usages du pays qu'ils sont appelés à gouverner, accélère beaucoup le mal que je viens de signaler. L'indifférence qu'ils témoignent pour tout ce qui se passe autour d'eux, ainsi qu'aux besoins du peuple, ajoutera à son mécontentement, et donnera lieu à beaucoup de confusion et d'anarchie à l'avenir. Déjà l'autorité Turque est moins respectée de ce qu'elle l'était il y a environ quatre mois.

La Sublime Porte devrait instruire ses officiers et ses Pachas de montrer plus d'activité, de faire plus d'attention aux besoins des Syriens, et de les gouverner avec plus de justice et de modération, mais de déployer de l'énergie et de la fermeté quand il le faut ;—car ce serait manquer à la confiance que la Sublime Porte a bien voulu me faire l'honneur de me témoigner, si je cachais à votre Excellence que le premier coup de fusil qui partirait en Syrie sera le signal d'une révolution générale,—et comme ce pays est formé de montagnes et de déserts, le Gouvernement Turc s'apercevra trop tard que ses moyens militaires et pécuniaires sont tout-à-fait insuffisans pour l'apaiser.

Les Pachas et les autres employés devraient montrer plus de zèle et de la bonne foi dans l'exercice des fonctions des charges qui leur ont été confiées, et par là acquérir la confiance et le respect du peuple au lieu de les perdre, et augmenter l'influence de leur Gouvernement.

Le montant du revenu de la Syrie s'élevait pendant l'administration Egyptienne à 362,000 bourses ; c'est-à-dire :

Miri	102,000 bourses.
Ferdé	60,000
Moubaaya	200,000 à peu près.

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362,000 Bourses.

Maintenant que le Moubaaya, le Ferdé, et autres impôts sont abolis par le "Tanzimati Haïriyé," le revenu se réduira à 72,000 bourses seulement, tandis que le montant des dépenses et des frais du Gouvernement en Syrie, d'après un calcul approximatif, s'élève à 140,000 bourses par an, ce qui occasionnera un déficit annuel de 68,000 bourses. Dans une entrevue que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir avec leurs Excellences Selim Pacha et le Moustéchar Effendi, il a été décidé de ne point établir le Tahriré Mal, ou l'impôt de 10 pour cent sur la valeur des propriétés. La pleine conviction que la perception de cet impôt causerait de grands inconvénients dans le pays (une insurrection), nous a fait adopter cette décision. Comme pourtant les frais montent à peu près le double du revenu, j'ose suggérer à votre Excellence que la Sublime Porte continue à percevoir le demi du Moubaaya à la place de l'impôt sur les propriétés, ce qui donnera une rente annuelle de 100,000 bourses.

Cette somme augmentera le total du revenu à 172,000 bourses, et par ce moyen,—malgré les énormes dépenses qu'il a été dit plus haut s'élèvent à 140,000 bourses,—il restera toujours la somme de 32,000 bourses pour ses frais extraordinaires.

Il est à regretter que la Sublime Porte ait cru nécessaire d'envoyer un si grand nombre de hauts fonctionnaires en Syrie. En les augmentant, on n'a fait qu'augmenter dans la même proportion les moyens d'opprimer et de vexer le peuple. Leurs salaires montent déjà à 1,600 bourses par mois, ou bien à un quart du revenu de la Syrie.

Il ne sera pas difficile de diminuer leur nombre en adoptant un autre forme d'administration ; mais je me réserve l'honneur de soumettre plus tard à votre Excellence mes observations sur ce sujet important.

Quoique la conduite du Lieutenant-Général Réchid Pacha a été jusqu'à présent irréprochable, cependant comme j'ai raison de croire qu'il se propose d'user des mesures violentes envers les habitans, je me fais un devoir d'en prévenir votre Excellence, afin que des instructions lui soient transmises pour lui servir de guide dans l'exercice de ses fonctions. Il serait convenable que de semblables instructions soient envoyées aussi à tous les Pachas et Desterdars,—car la Sublime Porte a plus à craindre de l'insouciance et du manque de tact de ses employés que des actes des Syriens contre son autorité.

J'ai appris avec peine que son Excellence Nejib Pacha vient de proposer Mahmoud Abdul Hadi pour être nommé Gouverneur de Nablous. Cet individu est l'oncle du Gouverneur actuel, Suleiman Abdul Hadi, et tous les deux, par leur tyrannie et leur oppression, ont portés les Nablousiens au comble de désespoir.

Les membres de la famille d'Abdul Hadi ont toujours soutenu les intérêts de Méhémet Ali. Ce sont eux qui ont aidé Ibrahim Pacha de s'emparer de St. Jean d'Acre, et c'est bien eux qui l'ont défendu jusqu'au dernier moment contre les forces des Alliés. Je prends la liberté de transmettre des différens documens en idiome Turc qui m'ont été donnés par le Séraskier Selim Pacha, qui prouveront à votre Excellence que Mahmoud et Suleiman Abdul Hadi sont des traîtres. Suffit-il de dire qu'il y aurait eu dernièrement une révolution dans la Montagne de Nablous si son Excellence Hassan Pacha et moi nous n'y étions pas rendus pour apaiser les montagnards qui demandent à haute voix la destitution de leur Gouverneur, Suleiman Abdul Hadi, et son remplacement par un officier de la Sublime Porte. Je leur ai promis de soumettre leur demande à votre Excellence à condition qu'ils resteraient tranquils. Or la confirmation du Gouverneur actuel, ou son remplacement par Mahmoud Abdul Hadi, son oncle, sera le signal d'une sédition immédiate. La Sublime Porte en accordant la demande des habitans de Nablous profiterait en même tems de l'occasion d'y nommer un de ses propres officiers ; et ainsi elle parviendrait d'y établir pour toujours son autorité et son influence.

Le gouvernement local est tout-à-fait dépourvu d'argent pour faire face



aux dépenses de l'armée, et comme quelque tems s'écoulera avant qu'il puisse percevoir les impôts et le Mîri, il est à craindre qu'il se verra forcé de vexer le pays pour son approvisionnement. Ceci pourrait bien faire naître des mésintelligences sérieuses entre lui et le peuple, qu'il appartient à la sagesse de la Sublime Porte de prévenir à tems.

Si toutefois votre Excellence me le permettra, je me ferai un véritable plaisir de vous soumettre quelques pièces détaillées sur les sujets ci-dessus mentionnés.

Agréez, &c.,

(Signé) RICHARD WOOD.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

*Therapia*, May 23. 1841.

I HASTEN to answer the request of your Excellency that I would communicate to you by letter, some information on the subject of Syria, as also respecting the conduct of certain of the officers of the Sublime Porte.

The Rishwet [suborning] has been in no respect done away with, and the Syrians loudly complain that they cannot ask for the assistance of the local authorities in their affairs, without making them presents of money; this system is general, and although one must except some of those high in office, almost all those employed by them are open to corruption. The Divan Effendissy and the Kiaja of Ali Pasha, ex-Governor of Damascus, have enriched themselves in this way, and it is said that the officers of Assaad Pasha, Governor of Aleppo, do as much. But the most alarming fact is the sale of employments, inasmuch as three great inconveniences arise out of it. 1. The little attention which is paid to the selection of the new officer. 2. The latter having bought his office, will fearlessly employ his new authority to reimburse himself for the expense which he has incurred. 3. The discontent which vexations of this character excite amongst the people.

In addition to the army in Syria being extremely neglected, it is in want of all necessaries. It is five months' pay in arrear, and has scarcely any commissariat, what there is being very ill organized. For this reason, the provisioning of the troops has become exceedingly difficult; the peasantry find themselves forced to contribute provisions, and complain aloud that they are already entitled to 3,000 purses, which his Excellency the Musteshar Effendi does not pay them. They assert, in consequence, that they are in this respect treated as ill as they were under the Egyptian rule.

I have made several representations to the Musteshar Effendi about this, but he has always answered me that he had no money; I am, however, convinced that his Excellency might have made his arrangements in a manner which would have given rise to less discontent.

The officers of the Sublime Porte in Syria treat the inhabitants with too much disdain, they do not attend to their representations, and do not grant them that assistance in their affairs to which they are entitled. This conduct on the part of the high functionaries, has in a great degree alienated the affection of the Syrians, and it is to be feared that it will end by rendering their devotion to the Sublime Porte less sincere than it was at the beginning of the campaign. In addition to this, the ignorance of the Pashas as regards the language, the manners, and customs, of the country which they are called upon to govern, hastens very much the evil which I have above pointed out. The indifference which they show to all that is going on around them, as well as to the wants of the people, will add to the discontent of the latter, and will hereafter give rise to much confusion and anarchy. The Turkish authority is already much less respected than it was four months back.

The Sublime Porte should instruct her officers and Pashas to show greater activity, to pay greater attention to the wants of the Syrians, and to govern them with more justice and moderation, but to show energy and firmness when it is required. For I should exhibit a disregard for that confidence with which the Sublime Porte has been pleased to honour me, were I to conceal from your Excellency, that the first shot which is fired in Syria will be the signal of a general revolt, and as this is a country of mountains and deserts, the Turkish Government will discover too late, that its military and pecuniary resources are too slender to put it down.

The Pashas and other officers should exhibit greater zeal and earnestness in the exercise of the duties of the offices confided to them, and by this means acquire instead of lose, the confidence and respect of the people, and increase the influence of their Government.

The revenue of Syria amounted, under the Egyptian rule, to 362,000 purses; *i. e.*,

	Purses.
Miri . . . . .	102,000
Ferdé . . . . .	60,000
Mubaaya, about . . . . .	200,000
	<hr/>
	362,000

Now that the Mubaaya, the Ferdé, and other duties, are abolished by the "Tanzimati Haïriyé," the revenue will be reduced to 72,000 purses only, while the gross amount of the expenditure and cost of Government in Syria, may be estimated at 140,000 purses, thus causing an annual deficiency of 68,000 purses. In an interview which I had the honour of having with their Excellencies Selim Bey and the Musteshar Effendi, it was decided not to establish the Tahrire Mal, or tax of 10 per cent. upon the value of property. The firm conviction that the collection of such a tax would cause great inconveniences [an insurrection] in the country, made us come to that decision. Inasmuch, however, as the expenditure amounts to nearly double the revenue, I venture to suggest to your Excellency that the Sublime Porte should continue to collect half of the Mubaaya in place of the property tax, which will give an annual sum of 100,000 purses.

This sum will bring the revenue up to a total of 172,000 purses; and by that means, notwithstanding the enormous expenditure, which, as has been already said, amounts to 140,000 purses, there will always remain the sum of 32,000 purses to meet extraordinary expenditure.

It is to be regretted that the Sublime Porte has thought it necessary to send so large a number of officers of high rank to Syria. The increase in their number has been but an increase in the means for the oppression and annoyance of the people. Their salaries already amount to 1,600 purses a month; that is to say, to a quarter of the revenue of Syria.

It will be no difficult matter to diminish their number, provided that another form of administration be adopted; but I reserve to myself the honour of submitting to your Excellency, at a later period, my observations upon this important subject.

Although the conduct of Lieutenant-General Rechid Pasha has been up to the present time irreproachable, yet, inasmuch as I have reason to believe that he proposes to use violent measures against the inhabitants, I consider it my duty to warn your Excellency on the subject, in order that instructions may be sent to him which may serve to guide him in the execution of his functions. It would be well that like instructions should be sent to all the Pashas and Desterdars, for the Porte has more to fear from the negligence and want of tact of her officers than from the acts of the Syrians against her authority.

I have learnt with regret that his Excellency Nejib Pasha has just proposed that Mahmoud Abdul Hadi should be named Governor of Nablous. That individual is the uncle of the present Governor, Suleiman Abdul Hadi, and both of them, by their tyranny and oppression, have brought the inhabitants of Nablous to the lowest depth of despair.

The members of the Abdul Hadi family have ever supported the interests of Mehemet Ali. They aided Ibrahim Pasha in seizing St. Jean d'Acre, and they also defended it to the last moment against the allied forces. I take the liberty of transmitting several documents, in the Turkish language, which have been given to me by the Seraskier Selim Pasha, and which will prove to your Excellency that Mahmoud and Suleiman Abdul Hadi are traitors. Let it suffice to say, that there would lately have been a revolution in the Mountain of Nablous if his Excellency Hassan Pasha and myself had not gone there for the purpose of appeasing the mountaineers, who call aloud for the removal of their Governor, Suleiman Abdul Hadi, and his being replaced



by an officer of the Sublime Porte. I have promised to submit their request to your Excellency, on condition of their remaining quiet. Consequently, the confirmation of the present Governor, or the appointment in his place of Mahmoud Abdul Hadi, his uncle, to that office, would be the signal of an instantaneous disturbance. In granting the request of the inhabitants of Nablous, the Porte might at the same time take advantage of the occasion to name to the post one of her own officers, and she would thus succeed in establishing there her permanent authority and influence.

The Local Government is completely without money to meet the expenses of the army, and as some time must elapse before it can receive the taxes and the Miri, there is reason to fear that it will be obliged to cause annoyance to the people in order to obtain supplies for it. This would not be unlikely to cause serious misunderstanding between it and the people, which it appertains to the wisdom of the Porte to guard against in time.

If, however, your Excellency will permit me, I shall have real pleasure in submitting to you some details with respect to the subject above treated of.

Receive, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

#### Inclosure 4 in No. 7.

#### *Memorandum on the Kapou Kiaja of the Emir Beshir, &c.,*

LA Sublime Porte a proposé que l'Emir Béchir n'ait un Kapou Kiaya qu'auprès de son Excellence le Defterdar; le Soussigné a l'honneur d'assurer son Excellence Rifaat Pacha, que l'Emir ne consentira jamais à cette mesure, puisque, d'après le firman impérial qu'il possède, il n'est nullement sous les ordres du Defterdar ou du Pacha de Saïda. L'objet de l'Emir est simplement d'avoir un Kapou Kiaya auprès de la Sublime Porte pour qu'il puisse s'entendre directement avec les Ministres de Sa Hautesse le Sultan dans les différends et les disputes qui peuvent bien avoir lieu entre lui et les Pachas. De plus, les Pachas et autres employés sachant que leur conduite peut être rapportée à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte, se verront obligés de se conduire avec plus de modération et de se comporter selon les désirs et les instructions du Gouvernement Turc. La Sublime Porte en refusant de lui accorder cette juste demande, obligera l'Emir tôt ou tard, d'interrompre ses communications avec les Pachas, et de se tenir isolé dans son Gouvernement du Mont Liban, ce qui n'est pas de l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte.

Quant au refus de la Sublime Porte de permettre au Patriarche Maronite d'avoir un Kapou Kiaya à Constantinople, la question se résout ainsi. Est-il de l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte que le Patriarche continue sous une protection étrangère, ou bien qu'il s'entende directement avec le Gouvernement Turc? Si la Sublime Porte persiste dans son refus de lui accorder sa demande, il continuera à jouir de sa protection étrangère, et lui avec toute la nation Maronite se tiendront, ainsi que le grand Prince, dans un état d'isolement.

La Sublime Porte ne devra pas perdre l'occasion de s'attacher ces deux hauts fonctionnaires, puisque c'est bien eux qui demandent ce rapprochement.

*Ce 8 Juin, 1841.*

(Translation.)

THE Sublime Porte has proposed that the Emir Beshir should have a Kapou Kiaja only near his Excellency the Defterdar; the Undersigned has the honour to assure his Excellency Rifaat Pasha, that the Emir will never consent to such a measure, inasmuch as in virtue of the imperial firman which he possesses, he is in no wise subject to the orders of the Defterdar, or of the Pasha of Saïda. The object of the Emir is simply to have a Kapou Kiaja at

the Sublime Porte, in order that he may have direct communication with the Ministers of His Highness the Sultan in the differences and disputes which may arise between him and the Pashas. Furthermore, the Pashas and other officers, knowing that their conduct can be brought to the knowledge of the Sublime Porte, will find themselves forced to conduct themselves with more moderation, and to obey the wishes and instructions of the Turkish Government. The Sublime Porte, in refusing to grant this fair request, will sooner or later oblige the Emir to break off his communications with the Pashas, and to keep himself isolated in his government of Mount Lebanon, which is not consistent with the interests of the Sublime Porte.

As regards the refusal of the Sublime Porte to permit the Maronite Patriarch to have a Kapou Kiaja at Constantinople, the question comes to this. Is it most for the interest of the Sublime Porte that the Patriarch should continue under foreign protection, or that he should communicate directly with the Turkish Government? If the Sublime Porte persists in its refusal to grant him what he desires, he will continue in the enjoyment of foreign protection, and he, and the whole Maronite nation, will, like the Prince, be in a state of isolation.

The Sublime Porte should not lose this opportunity of attaching to herself these two high functionaries, as they themselves invite such connexion.

June 8, 1841.

Inclosure 5 in No. 7.

*Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.*

My Lord,

*Pera, June 14, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a memorandum I drew up at his Excellency Rifaat Pasha's request, containing the propositions agreed upon between your Lordship, Baron de Stürmer, and Monsieur de Titow.

The Supreme Council consented to adopt the propositions, with unimportant modifications, with the exception of the one relating to the nomination of Kapou Kijas to represent the interests of Emir Beshir and of the Maronite church and nation at the Sublime Porte.

So soon as I was made acquainted with the above objection, I endeavoured to remove it by submitting to the consideration of Rifaat Pasha, all the observations in my power, which, after a conference of four hours, made some impression on his Excellency, who desired me to furnish him with another memorandum on the subject, and which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

I was, moreover, desired to see the Grand Vizier, and to convey the same observations to his Excellency, with which I complied immediately.

I availed myself of the opportunity thus afforded me to communicate your Lordship's opinions, and to ask his Excellency what answer the Ottoman ministers were prepared to give to their Sovereign and to Europe should they lose Syria, so recently conquered, through neglect in adopting the measures suggested to them for the redress of the Syrian grievances, for the security of the natives against the abuse of the authority of their own officers, and for the better establishment of the Sultan's authority, &c.

From the indirect remark made to me by his Excellency, that all the Mussulmans were soldiers, and would unite to suppress rebellion whenever it became necessary, I inferred the suspicion that the Sublime Porte entertained of our intention to support the rayahs of the Ottoman Empire in their resistance, and particularly the Syrian Christians; for I presume his Excellency intended to insinuate, that in the event of our attempting to countenance the rebellion of the rayahs, the Sublime Porte could, or would, have recourse to a levy *en masse* of the Turkish population.

Without betraying to the Grand Vizier that I had understood his insi-

uation, I replied that the very Mussulmans they intended levying *en masse*, were the same that were actually in open rebellion in Diarbekir, Orfa, Mesopotamia, Arabia, &c., and that, therefore, I thought the Sublime Porte had more to apprehend from its Turkish subjects than from the Christians. I remarked that the earnestness we showed in our endeavours to persuade the Sublime Porte to adopt measures for the entire pacification of its newly-conquered provinces, ought to be received as a further proof of our sincerity to preserve the tranquillity of the Empire, which we were desirous should prosper and acquire strength and stability, since, had our intentions been otherwise, we had only to remain quiet spectators of passing events until the Porte's officers in the interior accomplished, by acts of folly and oppression, its entire disorganization.

Without dwelling longer on the topics that formed the subject of a prolonged conversation of an hour, I will briefly state, that the Grand Vizier expressed his thanks for the friendly and open advice I gave him in your Lordship's name, which he said was a mark of the great sincerity that Her Majesty's Government had at all times taken in the well being and prosperity of the Ottoman Empire, and concluded by assuring me that the rejected proposition should form the subject of the deliberations of a Council to be held expressly.

His Excellency Rifaat Pasha has since communicated to me the resolution of the Sublime Porte to accede to the demand of the Emir Beshir to have a Kapou Kiaja, observing the same rules and formalities usual in similar nominations. The same privilege has been granted to the Maronite Patriarch, who has been, moreover, allowed to appoint to that office the individual of his own choice.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) R. WOOD.

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Inclosure 6 in No. 7.

*Memorandum containing the propositions agreed upon by Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Stürmer, and M. de Titow, and presented to Rifaat Pasha by Mr. Wood at His Excellency's request.*

(Translation.)

1. MR. WOOD in his verbal communications with Rechid Pasha, at that period Minister for Foreign Affairs, was desired by him to promise the Syrians the enjoyment of their ancient rights and privileges in case they returned to their allegiance to the Sublime Porte, and that, moreover, they should be exempted from all illegal taxation. The Musteshar Selamy Effendi having acted contrary to the above promises, the Sublime Porte should be advised in the names of the three Ministers as above, to observe the rights and privileges of the Syrians, and should remit all illegal taxes.

Besides the tithes, a property tax of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, and a custom-house duty of 12 per cent. on silk, making in all 32 per cent. on property and produce, have been demanded. As the Syrians, however, are not in a condition to meet these demands, they should be made to pay only the tithes on grain, the "Miri," and the customs.

It will be difficult to establish the property tax; any attempt will most likely lead to an insurrection. In its stead, therefore, half of the "mubaaya" (fixed contributions in kind) may be levied for the supply of the troops.

2. His Excellency the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch request to have each a Kapou Kiaja (agent) at the Sublime Porte.

Disputes and unpleasant altercations often occur between the Emir Beshir and the Pasha. To obviate this evil the Emir should be allowed to appoint a Kapou Kiaja. By these means, whenever disputes occur between him and the Pashas, he will be able to refer them to the Sublime Porte, and both the Emir and the Patriarch will be thus put in direct communication with the Ottoman Ministers. It will have the effect besides of deterring the

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Pashas from committing abuses when they are aware that their conduct is liable to be reported.

3. A Ferik should be appointed to the Government of Djebail Koodoos, Djebail Nablous, and Djebail Halil, who should reside at Jerusalem for the special protection of the Christians, and for the adjustment and settlement of their differences and disputes, as well as to prevent the various sects from interfering with each other, &c.

As many disputes exist between the Armenians, Latins, and Greeks, with regard to the possession of holy places and sanctuaries, the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs of Constantinople should be made to appoint each a commissioner to accompany the aforesaid Ferik to the Holy City, who, on his arrival, should request the Latins to nominate also a commissioner. These three Commissioners and the Ferik, with the assistance of the most respectable inhabitants of the city, should form a commission for the purpose of examining the respective titles of the three churches to the sanctuaries in dispute, so that each should be duly put in possession of what belongs to it by right.

The Sublime Porte should, moreover, issue firmans prohibiting any impediment from being offered to the Syrian Christians in the exercise of their worship, as well as the practice of extorting money from them. And in order that the good and benevolent intentions of the Sublime Porte should be made public, copies of the aforesaid firmans should be transmitted to the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs, and to the Lord Abbot of the Latins.

4. Their Excellencies the British, Austrian, and Russian Representatives alluded in their conference of the other day, to the propriety and justice of rewarding the Sheiks and other individuals who served faithfully during the war. Their names and services, and the degree and kind of reward to which they were entitled, were specified in a memorandum presented some time ago. Their Excellencies, therefore, request and ask that they should be rewarded accordingly.

5. Notwithstanding that their Excellencies Selim Pasha, the Admiral, and others, promised the inhabitants that the Sublime Porte would reimburse them for the destruction of the mulberry plantations and houses that were destroyed at Djouni, at the landing of the Turkish troops, for the construction of an entrenched camp, still not an asper has been given them. The Mustashar Effendi has reported the amount of the damage on the aforesaid property, and the Sublime Porte is particularly recommended to take the claims of the mountaineers into consideration.

(Signed)

RICHARD WOOD.

Constantinople, June 5, 1841.

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Inclosure 7 in No. 7.

*Memorandum presented to Rifaat Pasha by Mr. Wood.*

LES nouvelles arrivées par le dernier vapeur de la Syrie, sont peu satisfaisantes; elles parlent beaucoup de l'effet que l'insurrection en Candie a eu sur les esprits des Syriens, et particulièrement des Chrétiens du Mont Liban, qui, trompés sur leur attente de se voir gouvernés avec justice et modération, se sont mis en communication secrète entre eux, pour aviser sur les moyens d'offrir de la résistance aux autorités locales, en cas qu'elles persistent de les opprimer et de leur enlever leurs droits et privilèges. Quelques agens et émissaires les encouragent dans cette idée en tachant de les persuader de la faiblesse de la Sublime Porte, du succès qu'ont eu les Candiotes jusqu'à présent, et du peu d'espoir qu'ils ont de se voir bien gouvernés. Ces mêmes émissaires disent ouvertement qu'il est dans leur pouvoir de soulever le peuple de la Syrie quand ils le veulent.

La conduite de Nejib Pacha contribue beaucoup à hâter un mouvement séditieux en Syrie. Il a donné des ordres de faire saisir injustement un Chrétien nommé Tamis Bahos, pour avoir exécuté les ordres de son chef

l'Emir Béchir. Cet acte est contraire aux droits des montagnards qui ne sont responsables qu'à l'Emir Béchir. Ils se sont par conséquent portés sur plusieurs points pour délivrer des mains des gardes Turques le susdit Tamis Bahos. L'indiscrétion donc de ce Pacha causera le premier acte des Syriens contre son autorité.

Nejib Pacha a aussi l'intention de destituer l'Emir Said-el-Deen et l'Emir Effendi, gouverneurs des districts de Hasbeya et Rasheya. Ces deux Emirs ont des droits à la reconnaissance de la Sublime Porte pour leurs services dans la dernière campagne. Leur destitution causera des troubles dans l'Anti-Liban où ils jouissent d'une grande influence et autorité. Il a fallu deux ans à Ibrahim Pacha pour les soumettre.

Les impôts auxquels le Moustéchar Effendi a voulu soumettre la Montagne a mis l'Emir Béchir dans le cas d'offrir sa résignation. L'Emir a déclaré ouvertement que si on l'obligeait de percevoir le chiffre de tribut qu'on lui demandait, il y aurait une insurrection difficile à apaiser puisque les moyens nécessaires lui manquaient totalement. Une guerre civile entre les Druses et les Chrétiens serait la conséquence immédiate de la résignation de l'Emir Béchir.

Malgré la convention ou pacte signé par les Sheiks Arabes du Sud de s'abstenir des hostilités les uns contre les autres (et que le Soussigné a eu l'honneur de remettre à votre Excellence avant hier), le départ de son Excellence Hassan Pacha de Jaffa, a été suivi d'une attaque des Arabes contre le tribu de Sheik Mohamed Abdul Neby: tous les villages ont été pillés. Sheik Mohamed Abdul Neby s'est rendu auprès de Nejib Pacha pour se faire rendre justice, et si le Pacha le lui refuse, il emploiera ses propres moyens pour se venger.

Dans le cas que la Sublime Porte se propose de nommer un "Ferik" pour gouverner les districts de Gébail Halil, Gébail Koodoos (Jérusalem), et Gébail Nablous, le Soussigné ose recommander Hassan Pacha pour remplir ce poste. Son intégrité, son zèle, et la connaissance qu'il possède de ces lieux, le rendent digne de cette préférence.

Les "Shouras" (Conseils Municipaux) refusent de recevoir le témoignage des Chrétiens. Ce refus, si humiliant pour cette partie des sujets de la Sublime Porte, est contraire aux volontés de Sa Hautesse le Sultan. Comme la loi Turque ne rejette pas toujours le témoignage des Chrétiens, ceux-ci demandent à savoir où existe l'égalité que le Hatti-Shériff de Gulhane vient d'établir entre tous les sujets Turcs sans rapport à leurs dogmes religieux.

Les Shouras ont commencé de plus à renvoyer presque toutes les affaires aux Mekkmés (cours de justice), qui de l'autre côté sont devenus extrêmement corrompus. La vénalité des juges est arrivée au point d'empêcher le monde d'avoir recours à eux. Or, les Syriens, outre l'humiliation à laquelle ils sont exposés, et l'enlèvement de leurs privilèges que Méhémet Ali même respectait, n'ont non plus les moyens de se faire rendre justice. Les événements qui viennent de se passer dans l'intérieur de l'Empire Turc, ne devraient point laisser douter à la Sublime Porte quel serait le résultat d'un pareil état de choses en Syrie.

Les impôts qui existaient dans le temps d'Abdallah Pacha existent toujours, tels que les taxes sur l'industrie, malgré qu'ils furent abolis pendant la guerre; et les habitants de Saida et de Sour ont refusé de payer la dîme.

Le Patriarche Maronite et son Excellence l'Emir Béchir prient la Sublime Porte de leur accorder le droit d'avoir chacun d'eux un Kapou Kiaya, (Agent). Le Soussigné prend la liberté de suggérer à votre Excellence la prudence et l'avantage qu'il y aurait en accordant à ces deux dignitaires le privilège dont tous leurs égaux jouissent auprès de la Sublime Porte. Les Pachas en Syrie se conduiront avec plus de discrétion et de prudence, de peur que leur conduite ne fût rapportée à sa connaissance par l'entremise des Kapou Kiayas. Cette proposition devrait être adoptée sans délai.

Le Soussigné vient de recevoir des lettres de Jérusalem qui l'informent de scènes honteuses qui ont eu lieu entre les Francs, les Grecs, et les Arméniens, pendant les fêtes de Pâques. Ces scènes souvent répétées peuvent mener à des conséquences fâcheuses, sinon à des reproches adressés à la Sublime Porte par les Cours de l'Europe. En cas que la Sublime Porte se décide d'envoyer à Jérusalem un Ferik pour y gouverner,

il ne sera pas difficile de trouver et de suggérer les moyens de mettre un borne à ces disputes et à arranger les différends de ces sectes à l'avantage exclusif de la Sublime Porte.

Des nouvelles récentes de Jaffa annoncent l'arrivée de Meneckly Ahmet Pacha à El-Arish, où il s'occupe actuellement à acheter des provisions en grande quantité, et à faire creuser plusieurs puits. Il est évident que Méhémet Ali se propose d'y placer un corps d'armée. La nomination par conséquent de Sheik Mahmoud Abdul Hadi au gouvernement de Gaza devient plus dangereuse encore, puisque ce traître est capable de faciliter secrètement les mauvaises intentions du Pacha d'Égypte.

Les Grecs Catholiques de Nazareth se plaignent du mauvais traitement des Musulmans; et le Soussigné, en portant leurs justes griefs à la connaissance de votre Excellence, se permet la liberté de les accompagner de quelques observations générales.

Quand le Soussigné s'était rendu en Syrie, la Sublime Porte l'avait spécialement instruit de s'assurer de la coopération des Chrétiens contre les Égyptiens, et de leur promettre pour récompense le rétablissement et la confirmation de leurs droits et privilèges, et la mise en exécution des provisions du Hatti-Shériff de Gulhané à leur égard. Il est à présumer donc, que la Sublime Porte, en s'adressant aux Chrétiens, mettait plus de confiance dans leur loyauté, intelligence et courage. Malgré que par leurs services distingués ils ont démontré combien ils étaient dignes de la bonne opinion que la Sublime Porte avait formé d'eux, la Sublime Porte a-t-elle tenu ses engagements envers eux? Non! Mais il est pourtant de son intérêt de réfléchir que si ses Pachas leur ont fait perdre leur loyauté en ne pas exécutant les promesses solennelles de leur Gouvernement, que leur intelligence et leur courage leur restent intacts encore.

Déjà le Soussigné a signalé l'effet moral qu'a produit l'insurrection des Grecs de la Canée sur les esprits des Chrétiens en Syrie. Les Autorités Turques au lieu d'aliéner l'attachement des Syriens, devraient plutôt les contenter et les rendre heureux pour les intérêts mêmes de leur propre Gouvernement. La Sublime Porte ne devrait seulement se contenter d'envoyer des instructions à ses officiers en Syrie, mais elle devrait veiller aussi à ce qu'elles furent exécutées promptement et à la lettre,—puisque si une insurrection venait d'éclater, la Syrie est perdue, et Sa Hautesse le Sultan aura le droit de rendre responsables ses Ministres pour la perte d'un des bijoux les plus précieux de sa couronne, par la négligence ou bien par la faute de ceux dont le devoir est de le lui conserver en suivant les mesures qui leur ont été souvent indiquées à cet égard.

Le Soussigné s'est fait un devoir de transmettre par l'entremise de Hussein Pacha, sous date le 22 Février, une liste des personnes qui, par leur services pendant la guerre, s'étaient rendues dignes de la munificence de leur Auguste Souverain, en indiquant aussi le degré de récompense qu'ils méritaient. Dans la même époque, le Soussigné avait transmis aussi la prière de l'Emir Béchir que le terrain nommé Kourat-el-Tahta lui soit vendu, ou bien loué en ferme par le Gouvernement Turc. Le Soussigné ose prier son Excellence de vouloir bien prendre en considération les deux sujets ci-dessus mentionnés.

(Signé) RICHARD WOOD.

*Therapia*, le 27 Mai, 1841.

(Translation.)

THE intelligence by the last steam vessel from Syria, is but little satisfactory; it speaks much of the effect which the insurrection in Candia had had upon the minds of the Syrians, and more particularly upon the Christians of Mount Lebanon, who, deceived in their expectation that they were about to be governed with justice and moderation, have put themselves into secret communication amongst themselves, in order to consult as to the means of offering resistance to the local authorities, if they should persist in oppressing them, and in depriving them of their rights and privileges. Certain agents and emissaries encourage them in this idea, by endeavouring to



persuade them of the weakness of the Sublime Porte, of the success which the Candioti have had up to the present time, and of the little hope that they have of ever seeing themselves well governed. These very emissaries say openly that it is in their power to raise the people of Syria whensoever they desire.

The conduct of Nejib Pasha contributes much to hasten on the moment for sedition in Syria. He has ordered a Christian of the name of Tamis Bahos to be unjustly seized, because he had executed the orders of his chief, the Emir Beshir. This act is contrary to the rights of the Mountaineers, who are responsible to the Emir Beshir alone. They have accordingly proceeded to various points, with a view to rescue him, the said Tamis Bahos, from the Turkish guards. Thus the indiscretion of this Pasha will be the cause of the first act of the Syrians against his authority.

Nejib Pasha further proposes to remove the Emir Said-el-Deen and the Emir Effendi, the Governors of the districts of Hasbeya and Rasheya. These two Emirs have a claim upon the gratitude of the Sublime Porte on account of their services during the last campaign. Their removal will cause troubles in the Anti-Lebanon, where they have much influence and authority. It took Ibrahim Pasha two years to bring them to subjection.

The taxes which the Musteshar Effendi is desirous of imposing upon the Mountain, have brought the Emir Beshir to the point of offering his resignation. The Emir has openly declared, that should he be obliged to collect the amount of the tribute demanded of him, there would be an insurrection which he would find it difficult to quell, as the necessary means were totally wanting. A civil war between the Druses and Christians would be the immediate consequence of the resignation of the Emir Beshir.

Notwithstanding the convention or agreement signed by the Arab Sheiks of the south, that they would desist from hostilities against one another (which the Undersigned had the honour to send to your Excellency the day before yesterday), the departure of his Excellency Hassan Pasha from Jaffa, has been followed by an attack of the Arabs upon the tribe of Sheik Mohamed Abdul Neby : all the villages were pillaged. Sheik Mohamed Abdul Neby has gone to Nejib Pasha to ask for justice, and if the Pasha refuses him, he will use the means at his own disposal to avenge himself.

If the Sublime Porte should propose to name a "Firik" to govern the districts of Djebail Halil, Djebail Koodoos (Jerusalem), and Djebail Nablous, the Undersigned would venture to recommend Hassan Pasha for that situation. His integrity, his zeal, and his knowledge of those places render him worthy of this preference.

The "Shouras" [Municipal Councils] refuse to receive the evidence of Christians. This refusal, so humiliating to this class of the subjects of the Sublime Porte, is contrary to the wishes of His Highness the Sultan. As the Turkish law does not always reject the evidence of Christians, they would be glad to know where is that equality which the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané has lately established amongst all Turkish subjects without reference to their religious opinions.

The Shouras have further begun to remit nearly all cases to the Mek-kemés [courts of justice], who on the other hand are become extremely corrupt. The venality of the judges has now come to such a point as to deter persons from having recourse to them. Thus the Syrians, in addition to the humiliation to which they are exposed, and the deprivation of their privileges which Mehemet Ali himself respected, have no longer the means of obtaining justice. The events which have lately occurred in the interior of the Turkish Empire, should not allow the Sublime Porte to doubt as to the result of such a state of affairs in Syria.

The taxes which existed in the time of Abdallah Pasha, such as the taxes on industry, still exist, although they were abolished during the war; and the inhabitants of Saida and of Sour have refused the payment of tithe.

The Maronite Patriarch and his Excellency the Emir Beshir beseech the Sublime Porte to grant each of them the right of having a Kapou Kiaja, (Agent.) The Undersigned takes the liberty of suggesting to your Excellency, the prudence and advantage of granting to these two dignitaries a privilege enjoyed at the Porte by all their equals in rank. The Pashas in Syria will conduct themselves with more discretion and prudence, from a fear that

their conduct may be reported to the knowledge of the Porte, through the channel of these Kapou Kiajas. This proposition should be acceded to without delay.

The Undersigned has just received letters from Jerusalem, which detail to him the disgraceful scenes which have taken place amongst the Franks, Greeks, and Armenians, during the feast of Easter. Scenes such as these often repeated, are calculated to lead to disagreeable results, if not to reproaches being addressed by the European Courts to the Sublime Porte. If the Sublime Porte comes to the determination of sending a Ferik to Jerusalem to govern it, it will be an easy matter to find out and suggest the means of putting an end to these disputes, and of arranging the differences between these sects in a manner which would be exclusively advantageous to the Sublime Porte.

The late arrivals from Jaffa announce the arrival of Mehmed Ali Pasha at El-Arish, where he is occupied at the present moment in buying a large store of provisions, and in causing several wells to be dug. It is plain that Mehmed Ali proposes to place a division of his army there. Consequently the nomination of Sheik Mahmoud Abdul Hadi to the Government of Gaza becomes still more dangerous, inasmuch as this traitor is quite capable of secretly aiding the evil intentions of the Pasha of Egypt.

The Greek Catholics at Nazareth complain of the bad treatment they receive from the Mussulmans; and the Undersigned, in calling your Excellency's attention to their just complaints, takes the liberty of accompanying them by some general observations.

When the Undersigned went to Syria, the Sublime Porte had given him special instructions to make sure of the co-operation of the Christians against the Egyptians, and to promise them as a reward the re-establishment and confirmation of their rights and privileges, and also the execution of the provisions of the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané which regarded them. It is hence to be presumed that the Sublime Porte, in addressing herself to the Christians, put especial confidence in their loyalty, intelligence and courage. Although they have by their distinguished services, proved how worthy they were of the good opinion which the Sublime Porte had formed of them, has the Sublime Porte kept her engagements with them? No! But it behoves her to reflect that if the Pashas she has appointed have extinguished their loyalty, by the non-execution of the solemn promises of their Government, they still possess as much as ever intelligence and courage.

The Undersigned has already referred to the moral effect which the insurrection of the Greeks in Candia has produced upon the Christians of Syria. The Turkish authorities, instead of alienating the attachment of the Syrians, ought rather, if they considered only the interests of their own Government, to render them contented and happy. The Sublime Porte should not content herself only with sending instructions to her officers in Syria, but she should also watch that they are promptly and literally executed: for if an insurrection should chance to break out, Syria is lost, and His Highness the Sultan will have a right to make his Ministers responsible for the loss of one of the most precious jewels of his Crown, owing to the negligence, or at all events on account of the blunders, of those whose duty it is to preserve it to him, by following out the measures frequently pointed out to them in this matter.

The Undersigned considered it his duty to transmit, through Hussein Pasha, under date February 22, a list of persons who by their services during the war, had rendered themselves worthy of the generosity of their August Sovereign, stating at the same time the degree of reward to which they were entitled. At the same time the Undersigned transmitted the prayer of the Emir Beshir that the lands called Kourat-el-Tahta might be sold, or at least let to him by the Turkish Government. The Undersigned ventures to request his Excellency to take into consideration the two above-mentioned subjects.

*Therapia, May 27, 1841.*

(Signed)

RICHARD WOOD.



*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Therapia, June 21, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose documents, of which I subjoin a list.

They contain the official completion by the Sublime Porte of the measures recommended for the settlement of Syrian affairs.

If the measures are carried properly into execution I entertain no doubt of their being effectual for the reestablishment and for the future maintenance of tranquillity in Syria.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

*Firman addressed to Ferik Mehmed Tayar Pasha, Governor of Jerusalem and Gazu.*

(Traduction.)

ATTENDU que depuis un ancien temps la mise en pratique par les Chrétiens de la Syrie et des environs de leur religion a été une chose conforme à la Sainte Loi, désormais aussi les concessions et les faveurs qu'ils ont obtenues à cet égard en vertu des bérats et des diplômes munis de Hatti-Shériff que nous leur avons accordés, mes augustes ancêtres et moi-même, seront en pleine vigueur.

Lorsque les prêtres et les curés des couvens auront recours à la Sainte Loi, ou bien, lorsqu'ils auront à se plaindre de quelque violence qui leur aura été faite, les magistrats et autres officiers auxquels ils demanderont assistance, ne leur demanderont pas une seule obole, et ils ne permettront pas qu'il leur soit fait le moindre tort ni la moindre violence.

Si jamais il survient des contestations entre les prêtres, et que ces contestations soient difficiles à apaiser là bas, elles seront référées à Constantinople, afin qu'on y examine l'affaire soigneusement et avec équité.

Le plus grand soin sera apporté à protéger, comme cela se pratique *ab antiquo*, les prêtres, les couvens et les églises; ils doivent être à l'abri de toute molestation, de toute violence, de tout préjudice.

Comme les concessions faites et les anciennes immunités accordées aux églises et aux couvens, sont pleinement confirmées, il ne devra y avoir aucun empiètement, aucune contestation contrairement à ces concessions et à ces immunités.

Les prêtres Grecs, Arméniens, et Catholiques, se disputent de temps à autre entre eux en s'accusant à faux mutuellement, au sujet de l'église et de l'oratoire que leur ont été assignés par les Hatti-Shériffs et les firmans dont il a été parlé plus haut; il faut qu'ils se gardent bien de renouveler leurs anciennes disputes.

Les règles et le système observés dans l'Eglise Orientale, *ab antiquo*, touchant le rang et la classe des prêtres, seront également observés à l'avenir; il n'y aura à leur égard nulle innovation.

Lorsque le Patriarche de Constantinople ou celui de Jérusalem demandera l'autorisation de réparer les églises et les couvens qui auront été ruinés ou endommagés, soit par l'effet du temps, soit par des incendies qui sont si fréquentes, et qu'on se mettra à les réparer en vertu d'un firman qui sera donné de la manière voulue par la loi, accordant la permission de la restauration, les magistrats et les autorités locales ne prendront que les droits modérés qu'on est dans l'usage de prendre pour les Ilams et les Hogets qu'ils auront donnés, et il ne leur sera nullement permis de prendre, de leur propre chef, rien au-delà, ni cadeau, ni richevète, ni de se procurer des avantages par là.

Il sera défendu aux soldats chargés de la garde de la porte de l'Eglise de St. Sépulcre d'y entrer; ils auront à témoigner aux évêques de Jérusalem toutes sortes d'honneurs.

Telle étant ma volonté souveraine, le présent commandement émané

auprès de ma Chancellerie Impériale, et sanctionnant et confirmant mes ordres souverains, a été orné d'un Hatti-Shériff, et donné à la nation Grecque comme il en a été donné aussi aux nations Arménienne et Catholique.

Vous, donc, l'Ériq et Juge susmentionnés, lorsque vous saurez que c'est ma volonté souveraine et positive que les Hatti-Shériffs, les bérats et les firmans donnés à la nation Grecque soient toujours en vigueur et mis à exécution, et qu'il ne soit jamais permis d'y contravenir, vous aurez soin d'agir conformément au même, et après l'avoir fait enregistrer dans les archives du Mekkemé, vous le laisserez entre les mains de la nation Grecque, en vous gardant bien d'agir d'une manière contraire à ce qu'il prescrit.

Donné au commencement de Djémazi-ul-evel, 1257.—(20 Juin, 1841.)

(Translation.)

WHEREAS, for a long time past, the exercise by the Christians of Syria and the neighbouring countries, of their religion, has been conformable to the Sacred Law, for the future also, the concessions and favours which they have in this respect obtained, in virtue of bérats and diplomas bearing the Hatti-Sheriff, which we, that is to say, my august ancestors and myself, have accorded to them, shall be in full force.

When the priests and curates of convents shall have recourse to the Sacred Law, or when they may have to complain of any violence committed against them, the magistrates and other officers of whom they shall request assistance, shall not ask of them a single obole, and shall not permit the least injustice or violence to be done to them.

If disputes should ever arise amongst the priests, and these disputes should be difficult to be settled on the spot, they shall be referred to Constantinople, in order that the matter may be carefully and justly inquired into there.

The greatest pains shall be taken to protect, as has been the practice, *ab antiquo*, the priests, the convents, and churches; they are to be secure from all molestation, violence and injury.

Inasmuch as the concessions already made, and the ancient immunities granted to churches and convents, are confirmed in full, no encroachment must be made upon them, and no controversy stirred up contrary to these concessions and immunities.

The Greek, Armenian, and Catholic priests, have been in the habit of disputing, from time to time, amongst themselves, mutually accusing one another falsely, on the subject of the church and oratory which have been assigned to them by the Hatti-Sheriffs, and the firmans above mentioned; care must be taken that their ancient disputes be not renewed.

The regulations and system observed *ab antiquo* in the Eastern Church, touching the rank and class of the priests, shall be equally observed for the future; no innovation shall be made as regards them.

When the Patriarch of Constantinople or of Jerusalem shall ask for authority to repair the churches and convents which may have fallen into ruin or may have been injured, either by the action of time, or by the fires which are so frequent, and when the repairs shall have been commenced in virtue of a firman granted in the manner determined by law, permitting the repairs, the magistrates and local authorities will only exact the moderate duties which it has been usual to exact for the *İlams* and *Hogets* which they shall have given; and they will on no account whatsoever be allowed to exact on their own authority anything beyond those duties, whether of the nature of present, or gratuity, or to procure any advantages for themselves on that account.

The soldiers in charge of the gate of the church of the Holy Sepulchre shall be forbidden to enter therein; it will be their duty to shew all possible respect to the Bishops of Jerusalem.

This being my sovereign will, the present commandment, issued from my Imperial Chancery, and sanctioning and confirming my sovereign orders, has been decorated with a Hatti-Sheriff, and has been granted to the Greek nation, in the same manner as it has been also granted to the Armenian and Catholic nations.

You therefore, Ferik and Judge as above-mentioned, when you are informed that it is my sovereign and positive will that the Hatti-Sheriffs, the berats, and the firmans given to the Greek nation, shall be ever in force and executed, and that nothing should be allowed to contravene them, will take care to act conformably to the same, and after having caused it to be registered amongst the archives of the Mekkemé, you will hand it over to the Greek nation, taking good care to act in no way contrary to that herein prescribed to you.

Given at the commencement of Djemazi-ul-evel 1257. (June 20, 1841.)

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Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

*Minute of a Vizirial Letter to the Pashas of Damascus, Aleppo, and Saida, and to the Feriks of Tripoli in Syria, and Jerusalem.*

(Traduction.)

AINSI qu'il est à la connaissance de votre Excellence, le gouvernement des provinces de 1. Syrie ayant été retiré à Son Altesse le Pacha d'Egypte, et la Sublime Porte devant surveiller soigneusement à leur bonne administration à tous égards, le gouvernement de Damas a été conféré à votre Excellence.

Comme Sa Majesté Impériale veut, ainsi que l'exigent et les lois qui se rattachent au Califat, et les règles de l'équité qui sont inhérentes à la Souveraineté, que toutes les classes de sujets de l'Empire Ottoman soient, dans toutes les circonstances, protégés et défendus, vous employerez constamment vos soins à ce que tous les sujets de la Sublime Porte qui se trouvent établis dans les pays compris dans votre gouvernement, sans exception, et quels que soient leur religion et leurs rites, aient à jouir, sous les augustes auspices de Sa Hautesse, de la sécurité de la vie et des biens, et de la conservation de l'honneur.

Si une autorité Ottomane, si d'autres se permettaient quelque mauvais procédé à ces égards envers les rayas, et les molestaient, qu'ils sachent qu'ils s'en rendraient responsables, et c'est ce que vous ferez savoir à ceux qu'il faudra.

Attendu que les évêques et les prêtres sont les chefs (spirituels) des Chrétiens de ces pays là, ils seront défendus et protégés.

Si les rayas, à quelque nation qu'ils appartiennent, ont recours en matière de droit ou autres, aux autorités judiciaires ou militaires, ces autorités auront soin de leur rendre impartiellement la plus stricte justice.

Lorsqu'au besoin les causes des sujets Ottomans devront être examinées et jugées, leurs chefs (spirituels) seront présents à l'audience ; et s'il s'agit de sujets des Puissances amies, leurs Consuls respectifs y assisteront.

La capitation légale sera perçue de la manière qui est établie par l'excellent système introduit par les réformes.

A la demande des Chrétiens, on leur accordera, en autant que la loi l'autorise, la permission de restaurer et construire leurs anciennes églises, leurs couvens, hôpitaux, cimetières et autres endroits, d'exercer leur culte, leurs usages et leurs opérations.

Si un nombre convenable de soldats de police était jugé nécessaire pour empêcher que l'asile des presbytères, des églises et des couvens ne soit violé, et pour leur sûreté, on les fera chercher des corps-de-gardes situés dans le voisinage.

Enfin, votre Excellence mettra tous ses soins à protéger et défendre de toutes les manières les sujets de quelque classe qu'ils soient, et à faire bénir le nom de Sa Majesté Impériale.

Quant aux affaires difficiles qui ne pourront pas être résolues là bas, vous demanderez, pour ce qui les concerne, des ordres d'ici.

(Translation.)

THE Government of the provinces of Syria having, as your Excellency is aware, been withdrawn from his Highness the Pasha of Egypt, and it being the duty of the Sublime Porte to provide carefully for their good adminis-

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tration in all respects, the Government of Damascus has been conferred upon your Excellency.

Now, inasmuch as His Imperial Majesty desires, as indeed the laws attaching to the Kaliphate and the principles of justice inherent in sovereignty require, that all classes of subjects of the Ottoman Empire should be, in all circumstances, protected and defended, you will on all occasions use your utmost endeavours to secure to all the subjects of the Sublime Porte who may be established in the countries comprised in your Government, without any exception and whatever may be their religion and rites, the enjoyment under the august auspices of His Highness, of security of life and property, and the preservation of their honour.

If any Turkish authority, or any other person, should allow themselves to act wrongfully in these respects towards the rayahs, and should molest them, let them know that they will be responsible for the same, and you will make this known to those whom it may concern.

As long as the bishops and priests are the [spiritual] chiefs of the Christians in those countries, they shall be defended and protected.

If rayahs, whatever be the nation to which they belong, shall, either in a matter of law or of any other sort, have recourse to the judicial or military authorities, these authorities shall take good care to render to them, impartially, the strictest justice.

When it becomes necessary that the causes of Turkish subjects shall be examined into and decided upon, their [spiritual] chiefs shall be present at the hearing; and if it is a case where the subjects of friendly Powers are concerned, their respective consuls shall be present.

The capitation [tax] established by law, shall be collected in the manner established by the excellent system introduced by the reforms.

At the request of the Christians, permission shall be granted to them, as far as the law permits, to restore and reconstruct their ancient churches, convents, hospitals, burial-grounds, and other places, and to exercise their worship, their customs, and employments.

If a suitable number of police-soldiers should be thought necessary to protect from violation the asylums offered by presbyteries, churches, and convents, and to secure the same, it shall be obtained from the neighbouring guard-houses.

Finally, your Excellency will use your utmost endeavours to protect and defend in every way, people of all classes, and to cause the name of His Imperial Majesty to be blessed.

As regards difficult matters which cannot be settled on the spot, you will request instructions from hence on the subject.

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#### Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

*Analysis of what the Porte has done for the Syrians, written from the dictation of Rifaat Pasha.*

1. LE Férik, Général de division, Tayar Pacha, est nommé Gouverneur Militaire de Jérusalem et de Gaza, pour la protection spéciale des Chrétiens.

2. Un firman accompagné d'un Hatti-Shériff a été adressé à Tayar Pacha afin qu'il lui serve de ligne de conduite.

3. Une circulaire vizirienne a été adressée à plusieurs Pachas, pour la protection en général des Syriens.

4. Sounouki Effendi, Secrétaire Officiel du Beylikgi, est nommé par la Porte Kapou Kiaya ou Agent Officiel de l'Emir Béchir près du Gouvernement Ottoman. L'Emir Béchir pourra avoir un Agent à Saïda pour les affaires courantes.

5. Elias Hawa, négociant de première classe, et Alepin de nation, est nommé Kapou Kiaya du Patriarche des Maronites.

6. On a donné au Mouhassil de Saïda, Edhem Bey, les ordres et les instructions nécessaires pour les récompenses à être données par la Porte à plu-

sieurs notables de la Syrie qui ont rendu des services au Sultan dans la dernière guerre.

7. On a écrit partout dans toute la Syrie pour ordonner que l'on observe envers le peuple et les Chrétiens la meilleure conduite possible, en défendant rigoureusement tout ce qui ressemble à la corruption, au mépris, à l'injustice.

8. D'après les représentations faites par Son Excellence Lord Ponsonby à la Porte, le Grand Vizir a écrit aujourd'hui une lettre de réprimande des plus fortes à Nejib Pacha pour lui reprocher ce qu'il a fait, et pour lui ordonner de ne plus donner le moindre motif de plainte à qui que ce soit, et de traiter très honorablement tous les Chrétiens, de ne plus les molester par rapport à leur vêtement, &c.

9. On a écrit en Syrie pour avoir des informations sur le Tribut, le Moubaaya, &c.

La Porte établira, après qu'elle aura été bien informée sur ces choses là, un système qui sera tout-à-fait conforme à la stricte équité.

(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

(Translation.)

1. THE Ferik, General of Division, Tayar Pasha, is named Military Governor of Jerusalem and of Gaza, for the special protection of the Christians.

2. A firman accompanied by a Hatti-Sheriff has been addressed to Tayar Pasha, to serve as a rule for his conduct.

3. A Vizirial Circular has been addressed to several Pashas, for the general protection of the Syrians.

4. Sounouki Effendi, Official Secretary of the Beylikgi, is named by the Porte Kapou Kiaja, or Official Agent, of the Emir Beshir at the Ottoman Porte. The Emir Beshir may have an agent at Saida for current affairs.

5. Elias Hawa, a merchant of the first class, and a native of Aleppo, is named Kapou Kiaja of the Maronite Patriarch.

6. Orders and the necessary instructions have been given to the Mu-hassil of Saida, Edhem Bey, as regards the rewards to be given by the Porte to several of the notables of Syria who rendered services to the Sultan in the late war.

7. Instructions have been issued in all parts of Syria, ordering the observance of the best possible behaviour towards the people and the Christians, and strictly forbidding everything in the shape of corruption, contempt, and injustice.

8. In consequence of the representations made to the Porte by his Excellency Lord Ponsonby, the Grand Vizier has to-day written a most strong letter of reprimand to Nejib Pasha, reproaching him for what he has done, and ordering him for the future to give no one cause of complaint, and to treat the Christians honourably, not molesting them further about their dress, &c.

9. Information has been written for from Syria on the subject of the tribute, the Mubaaya, &c,

The Porte will, after she is well informed upon these points, establish a system strictly in conformity with rigid justice.

(Signed) FREDERICK PISANI.

No. 9.

*Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, July 15, 1841.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency\* copies of two despatches from Colonel Rose, dated the 22nd and 28th of May, containing a report of the discussions which have taken place between the chiefs of Lebanon and the Turkish autho-

\* Part II., Nos. 6 and 7.

rities respecting the amount of the taxation which is to be imposed upon the inhabitants of that district; and I have to instruct your Excellency to bring under the notice of the Porte so much of these despatches as relates to the errors and faults of the Turkish authorities.

Your Excellency should also strongly advise the Porte to settle the question as to the amount of the Lebanon taxes, in such a manner as to satisfy the reasonable wishes of the people; for it is very important that the Porte should avoid giving occasion for any joint or formal interposition of the European Powers in matters of this kind.

Her Majesty's Government would also recommend to the Porte to cause a public inquiry to be made as to the losses which the people in the neighbourhood of Beyrout sustained by the ravages committed by the Egyptian troops last summer, in order that the sufferers may receive compensation; and Her Majesty's Government understand that a few thousand pounds would cover the whole amount of such losses.

## No. 10.

*Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, July 20, 1841.*

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the steps which you have taken about the affairs of Syria, and the recommendations which have been made to the Porte with your concurrence respecting those affairs, as reported in your despatch of the 21st of June.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

## No. 11.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 30.)*

(Extract.)

*Therapia, July 13, 1841.*

THERE can be no doubt of the critical and dangerous nature of the state of affairs in Syria, but I am certain nothing good can be done there whilst Nejib Pasha is permitted to govern the country, and whilst the Porte acts with equal timidity and stupidity with respect to the administration there. What the Porte has undertaken to grant, and which has been reported to your Lordship, will, I hope, suffice, provided execution be given to those arrangements; but delay of it will produce evil of great magnitude.

## No. 12.

*Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, August 9, 1841.*

I HAVE received from Colonel Rose a copy of his despatch to your Excellency of the 25th of June, respecting the refusal of the Mufti of Beyrout to admit the evidence of Christians against Mahometans; and I have, in con-

sequence, addressed to Chekib Effendi, the note, of which I inclose a copy for your Excellency's information.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) PALMERSTON

Inclosure in No. 12.

*Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.*

*Foreign Office, August 9, 1841.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to transmit to Chekib Effendi, &c., the accompanying copy\* of a despatch from Colonel Rose, the Commanding officer of the British detachments in Syria, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, together with a copy of the letter therein referred to, which that officer, conjointly with Captain Waldegrave and Captain Pring of the British navy, and the British Consul at Beyrout, addressed to the Seraskier Selim Pasha on the 25th of June, on the subject of the refusal of the Mufti of Beyrout to admit the evidence of Christians against Mussulmans.

The Undersigned requests Chekib Effendi to communicate these papers to the Sublime Porte, and to state to the Ottoman Ministers, that Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that the enlightened sense of justice which directs the Councils of the Sultan, will lead His Highness, without a moment's delay, to take the necessary measures for preventing the Muftis in Syria from acting upon the obsolete and antiquated doctrine laid down by the Mufti of Beyrout.

The Sublime Porte will see from the statements contained in the letter from the British officers to Selim Pasha, what intolerable injuries might be committed upon the Christians by the Mahometans, if the doctrine laid down by the Mufti of Beyrout were to prevail; and the Porte, in its wisdom, must perceive that injuries of this kind would be resented by the Christians of Syria, first, by acts of private vengeance against individual Mahometans, and at length by a general revolt of the whole people against the authority of the Sultan; and it cannot be doubted that such a revolt, so provoked, would have the sympathy of all the nations of Europe; and it would, in all probability, meet with active and effectual assistance from many quarters.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 13.

*Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, August 9, 1841.*

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a further note which I have addressed to Chekib Effendi, in consequence of the accounts which I continue to receive from Colonel Rose of the oppressions practised by the Mahometans upon the Christians in Syria.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 13.

*Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.*

*Foreign Office, August 9, 1841.*

THE Undersigned, &c., regrets extremely to have to state to Chekib Effendi, &c., that Her Majesty's Government continue to receive reports of the tyrannical proceedings of the Mussulmans towards the Christians in Syria,

\* Part II., Inclosure in No. 13.



and of the inability, or unwillingness of the Ottoman Authorities in that country, to preserve order, or to secure the Christians from oppression.

The Undersigned feels it incumbent upon him again to request Chekib Effendi strongly to impress upon the Sublime Porte, that if the Sultan does not take effectual measures for protecting his Christian subjects from oppression arising from religious bigotry and from the fanaticism of the Mussulmans, or from obsolete notions that the Turks ought to enjoy as a political privilege the right of oppressing their Christian fellow subjects, consequences of the most serious nature to the Turkish Empire will inevitably follow.

But the Sultan has, ever since he ascended the throne, given so many and such indisputable proofs of his fixed determination to protect equally all classes of his subjects, and to see that equal and impartial justice is done to all, that Her Majesty's Government are persuaded that when the Sultan learns how ill his paternal intentions are carried into execution by some of the persons whom he has placed in authority in his provinces, he will take the most prompt and effectual measures to cause his benevolent will to be more strictly obeyed.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 14.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 12.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, July 18, 1841.*

I MADE known to Rifaat Pasha that I was acquainted with your Lordship's letter to Chekib Effendi upon the subject of Nejib Pasha.

His Excellency sent me word that the Sublime Porte had already sent the most precise orders to Nejib Pasha to avoid giving any cause whatever for dissatisfaction to the Syrians, adding, that if he failed in any degree whatever to obey those orders, he should be instantly removed from his post. I said in reply, that a man like Nejib Pasha would not alter his conduct.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 15.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 20.)*

(Extraat.)

*Therapia, July 27, 1841.*

I HAVE been desirous of Mr. Wood's proceeding to Syria, where his presence might be eminently useful in consequence of the great influence he has enjoyed and exercised over the chiefs in that country, and because Rifaat Pasha has expressed his wishes that he should go back; but I have had information from Syria showing that not one of the promises made by the Sublime Porte of which Mr. Wood was the bearer, authorized by the Porte and by me, has been performed by the Ottoman Authorities in Syria, but that on the contrary, the Authority lately sent there, viz., the Defterdar, has denied the existence of some of those promises, although those promises have been avowed by Selim Pasha; and I have further learnt that the greatest dissatisfaction exists amongst the Mountaineers and others in consequence of the non-execution of the promises generally, of which Mr. Wood was the bearer. I have in consequence thought it right to detain here, Mr. Wood, knowing that his return to Syria must be very mischievous in its effects under such circumstances, for the Syrians would demand from him, why his promises are not performed, and Mr. Wood must either allow the Syrians to hold him a liar and deceiver, and to charge the British Ambassador and even Her Majesty's Government with deceit and falsehood, or Mr. Wood must declare that the Porte is guilty of breaking its promises, and by so doing there would be an end put to the respite from mischief that has been obtained by the suspense in which the Syrians have been still held and the hopes they have



still nourished that we here should succeed in obtaining for them what had been promised to them.

I thought it right to give the Ottoman Ministers credit for their repeated declarations that Nejib Pasha and the other functionaries in Syria should be obliged to act in conformity with the spirit and letter of the promises of the Sublime Porte; but, day after day, week after week, months have passed away, and nothing has been done. I have therefore given in to the Sublime Porte an official note, pointing out the evils that would ensue from the return of Mr. Wood to Syria, and further stating that not one of the arrangements agreed upon at the meeting held by the Internuncio and the Russian Minister and myself, and which were communicated to the Sublime Porte and accepted by the Porte, had as yet been acted upon, and terminating with the request that the Sublime Porte will give me a clear and satisfactory answer.

No. 16.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 20.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, July 28, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose M. Pisani's report of his Excellency Rifaat Pasha's reply to my official note referred to in my despatch of the 27th instant.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 16.

*M. Pisani to Viscount Ponsonby.*

(Extract.)

*Pera, July 28, 1841.*

RIFAAT PASHA informs me that your Excellency's note about the promises made by the Porte has been duly read and discussed in the Council yesterday. His Excellency spoke in the most energetic terms in support of its interest. The result is, that they will send again by Tayar Pasha, who will leave this for Syria at the end of this week, most positive orders to Edhem Bey, the Defterdar of Acre, to reward, without any further delay, those persons who are known to have served the Sultan's just cause, and to indemnify those whose mulberries have been cut for carrying on the military operations. I asked for a copy of the orders that are to be sent to Acre.

No. 17.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 18.)*

(Extract.)

*Therapia, July 31, 1841.*

I HAVE already had the honour to inform you, that the Sublime Porte has declared its fixed purpose to carry into effect the promises and engagements made to the Syrians.

I think it better to detain Mr. Wood here, till I see some result in proof of the execution of the above promises. I am of opinion that they will be substantially performed, and I expect that Nejib will be recalled ere long; the Porte seems to wish to be allowed to save appearances with respect to him, and I see no reason for forcing the Porte, if what we desire be done, and tranquillity ensured in Syria.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 26.)*

(Extract.)

*Therapia, August 3, 1841.*

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from the Grand Vizier to Hadji Edhem Bey, Defterdar of Acre, dated the 29th July, and sent from hence to Syria, the 30th July.

This despatch is the consequence of an official note from me to the Sublime Porte, containing complaints that the promises of the Porte had not been performed in Syria. I hope the orders given by the Grand Vizier may be productive of good.

Inclosure in No. 18.

*The Grand Vizier to Hadji Edhem Bey.*

(Traduction.)

*Le 29 Juillet, 1841.*

IL est dit dans une note présentée par son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, Lord Ponsonby, au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, que les promesses faites par la Sublime Porte de récompenser quelques sujets fidèles parmi les Syriens, qui se sont empressés de rendre des services utiles, et d'indemniser les propriétaires des mûriers qu'on a coupés pour former un camp retranché à Djouni, n'ont pas été remplies, et qu'interrogée là dessus, votre Excellence a répondu qu'elle n'avait pas des instructions à ces égards.

Or, vous savez qu'on vous a remis une liste des gens qu'il faut récompenser, et que lorsque vous alliez partir d'ici, même dans un Conseil de Ministres auquel vous avez assisté, on vous a très fortement recommandé de donner ces récompenses conformément à la liste qui vous avait été remise, de payer la valeur des arbres en question, de prendre des renseignemens sur les taxes, et d'avoir soin que l'administration du pays se fasse suivant des principes sages et équitables. Voilà dans quel sens étaient conçues les instructions qu'on vous a données.

En conséquence, nous nous attendions tous que, serviteur éclairé de la Sublime Porte, doué de prudence et de sagesse, et connaissant la délicatesse des circonstances actuelles, non seulement vous mettriez tous vos soins à arranger toutes ces affaires, mais que, poussé par votre zèle naturel, vous rendriez plus de services que les autres employés du Gouvernement dans ces pays-là.

Nous avons donc lieu de nous étonner lorsque nous apprenons que vous feignez de n'avoir pas des instructions sur les affaires dont on vient de parler, et que nous voyons que vous ne nous écrivez rien, tandis que les Ambassades ne cessent de recevoir des lettres de Beyrout; ce qui fait que nous ne pouvons pas donner une réponse satisfaisante aux représentations qu'on nous fait sur des points auxquels la Sublime Porte prend un très grand intérêt. C'est pourquoi il est devenu nécessaire que nous vous donnions de nouveaux ordres à tous ces égards, en vous transmettant, en même temps, copie de la note de M. l'Ambassadeur Anglais, afin que vous preniez connaissance des faits dont il s'agit.

Il importe beaucoup que les indemnités soient faites sans le moindre délai, et il est de la dignité de la Sublime Porte, que les Nichans, les gratifications en argent, et les autres espèces de récompenses soient donnés un moment plus tôt. Ainsi, nous faisons confectionner les deux Nichans qui ont été recommandés, et que nous vous enverrons afin que vous les donniez vous-même; vous donnerez les gratifications à ceux qu'il faut, conformément à la liste qui en a été faite; vous payerez la valeur des arbres dont il a été parlé plus haut; et enfin, vous ferez tout ce qui est nécessaire afin que ces affaires, ainsi que toutes les autres affaires qui vous ont été recommandées, soient arrangées; et vous nous informerez, sans perte de temps, de ce que vous aurez fait.

Quant aux taxes, les Druses demandent à en être exempts pendant l'espace de trois ans; mais ils ont déjà été exempts du Ferdé, et d'autres

impôts vexatoires. Il se trouve seulement, d'après ce que nous apprenons, que Son Excellence Selim Pacha, ci-devant Mouchir de Saïda, a parlé aux habitans d'un à deux villages situés aux environs de Beyrout, de quelques concessions à leur être faites de la part de Sa Hautesse. Voyez donc ce qu'il en résulte et écrivez nous là-dessus. Et comme, en cas que vous et les autres autorités traitiez avec lenteur, les affaires se compliqueront de plus en plus, vous devez vous tenir constamment au courant de ce qui se passe, afin que vous ayez de nouvelles instructions sur chaque point.

Le Périq de Jérusalem, son Excellence Tayar Pacha, qui part pour se rendre à sa destination, est chargé de vous transmettre les ordres nécessaires sur toutes les affaires dont il s'agit. Enfin, vous mettrez tous vos soins à arranger ces affaires, à nous écrire sans interruption sur tout ce qui se passe, et à ce que le pays soit bien administré, et vous ne devez jamais perdre de vue qu'il faut que vous mettiez toute votre sollicitude à assurer aux populations la jouissance de cette protection dont la Sublime Porte veut qu'elles jouissent, en évitant tout ce qui peut troubler leur repos et donner lieu à un mécontentement populaire; et c'est à ces fins que cette dépêche a été écrite exprès.

*Le 11 Djémazi-ul-Akhir, 1277.*

(Translation.)

IT is said in a note presented by his Excellency the Ambassador of England, Lord Ponsonby, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the promises made by the Sublime Porte to recompense some faithful subjects among the Syrians, who were eager to render useful services, and to indemnify the proprietors of mulberry-trees which were cut down to form an entrenched camp at Djouni, have not been fulfilled, and on being asked on this subject, your Excellency answered that you had no instructions on these matters.

Now, you know that a list has been sent you of the people whom it is necessary to recompense, and that at the time of your departure from hence, even in a council of Ministers at which you were present, it was strongly recommended to you to give these rewards conformably to the list which had been sent to you, to pay the value of the trees in question, to gain information respecting the taxes, and to be careful that the administration of the country should be conducted according to wise and just principles. This is the sense in which the instructions given to you were drawn up.

Consequently, we all expected that, being an enlightened servant of the Porte, gifted with prudence and wisdom, and knowing the delicacy of existing circumstances, you would not only apply all your care to arrange all these matters, but, urged by your natural zeal, would render more service than the other officers of the Government in those countries.

We have then room for astonishment, since we learn that you pretend not to have received instructions on the affairs which have just been mentioned, and see that you write nothing to us, although the Embassies do not cease to receive letters from Beyrout; which circumstance prevents us from giving a satisfactory answer to the representations which are made to us on points in which the Sublime Porte takes a very great interest. This is the reason why it has become necessary that we should give you fresh orders in all these respects, transmitting to you, at the same time, a copy of the note of the English Ambassador, in order that you may be acquainted with the facts of which it treats.

It is essential that the indemnities should be paid without the least delay, and it is for the dignity of the Sublime Porte, that the Nishans, the gratifications in money, and the other kinds of recompense should be given at the earliest moment. Thus, we are having prepared the two Nishans which had been recommended, and which we shall send to you in order that you may give them yourself; you will give the gratifications to the proper persons, conformably to the list which has been made of them; you will pay the value of the trees, of which mention has been made above; and, in short, you will do all that is necessary in order that these affairs, as well as all the

other affairs which have been entrusted to you, may be settled; and you will inform us, without loss of time, of what you shall have done.

As for the taxes, the Druses demand to be exempted from them for the space of three years; but they have already been exempted from the Ferdé and from other vexatious imposts. It only appears as far as we can learn, that his Excellency Selim Pasha, formerly Mushir of Saida, spoke to the inhabitants of one or two villages situated in the neighbourhood of Beyrout, of some concessions to be made to them on the part of His Highness. See then how the case stands, and write to us about it. And as, in case you and the other authorities should act with slowness, affairs will get more and more complicated, you ought to keep us constantly informed of what is passing, in order that you may have fresh instructions on each point.

The Ferik of Jerusalem, his Excellency Tayar Pasha, who is setting out for his destination, is directed to transmit to you the necessary orders on all the matters in question. In short, you will devote all your attention to settle these affairs, to write to us without interruption on all that is passing, and that the country may be well governed; and you must always keep in view that it is necessary that you should do your utmost to assure to the people the enjoyment of that protection which the Sublime Porte wishes they should enjoy, avoiding everything which can disturb their repose and give occasion for popular discontent; and it is for these ends that this despatch has been expressly written.

11th Djemazi-ul-Akhir, 1257.

No. 19.

*Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, August 26, 1841.*

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have seen with great satisfaction by your Excellency's despatch of the 3rd of August, that the Grand Vizier has sent strict orders to the Turkish authorities in Syria to fulfil the promises made to the Syrians at the commencement of the rising against the authority of Mehemet Ali last year; and I have to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the measures which your Excellency has taken, and proposes still to take, to ensure the faithful execution of those promises by the Porte.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 20.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 3.)*

(Extract.)

*Therapia, August 11, 1841.*

I INCLOSE a brief memorandum of what has been obtained from the Sublime Porte for the Syrians. I caused it to be prepared by Mr. Wood, to be communicated to his Excellency the Internuncio, which was done yesterday, when I had a long interview with him, at which Mr. Wood was present.

His Excellency approved of all that had been done, and said that the interests and objects of the Austrian and English Governments were identick upon the subject of Syria, and that their agents would act together with the most perfect cordiality. His Excellency expressed his wishes that Mr. Wood should proceed to Syria as soon as could be, where his influence and his knowledge of the people were required. His Excellency spoke also in strong, and handsome, and merited terms of commendation of the services already rendered by Mr. Wood.

The Sublime Porte desires to give Mr. Wood power to a certain extent, to superintend the conduct of the Ottoman authorities in the performance of the orders of the Porte relating to the arrangements in Syria intended to satisfy the wants of the Syrians of all denominations. I consider it my duty to empower Mr. Wood to act in pursuance of the wishes of the Porte in that matter.

There remains to be settled with the Porte an important question relating to the amount of the duty on silk, connected with other matters of fiscal nature. The Porte has been deceived upon the subject by its agents, but I hope we shall be able to settle the business satisfactorily by making the true facts known to the Porte.

I propose that Mr. Wood should leave this for Syria in ten or twelve days.

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Inclosure in No. 20.

*Memorandum of what has been obtained of the Sublime Porte for the Syrians.*

AT a conference of their Excellencies the Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Stürmer, and M. de Titow, it was agreed upon, that the five following proposals should be made to the Sublime Porte in favour of the Syrians:—

1. The remission of all illegal taxes and imposts.
2. The appointment of a Ferik to reside at Jerusalem for the special protection of the Christians, and the issue of firmans to the Governors to respect the rites and religious ceremonies of the various sects that inhabit Syria, as well as permission to repair and construct their churches, after the usual formalities have been observed, and a positive prohibition to the officers to accept or extort fees, beyond those fixed by the laws of the country.

3. That the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch should each have a Kapou Kiaja to enable them to communicate direct with the Porte.

4. That the Syrians who rendered services during the war should be rewarded

5. That the proprietors of the plantations destroyed at Djouni by the allied forces should be indemnified for their losses.

The Undersigned has obtained besides,—

6. The dismissal of the Civil Governor of Gaza, who was obnoxious to the people on account of his vexations during the Egyptian rule.

7. The dismissal of Sheik Abdul Hadi, appointed Muhassil of the district of Gaza, Nablous, and Ramla, by Nejib Pasha, who was also obnoxious to the people, and a traitor to his sovereign.

8. An order for the Defterdar of Saida to abolish the monopoly of provisions established by the late Musteshar.

9. An order to Selim Pasha to desist from searching the tezkerehs of those who entered or left the towns, and from levying a piastre or thirty paras from each.

10. A promise that a custom-house officer should accompany the Undersigned to regulate the custom-houses of Syria.

11. Strict injunctions to Nejib Pasha and to the Defterdar of Damascus not to interfere henceforth with the costume of the Christians, and to allow them to ride on horseback, according to their custom.

12. That the Miri, including the Haradj, the Djizrye, and other taxes, to be paid by the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, shall not exceed the sum of 3,500 purses, and that the expenses of the administration, (also not exceeding 2,280 purses,) shall be deducted from the Miri.

13. The confirmation of the Emirs Effendi, Said-el-Deen, and Hangiar, in their respective Governments of Rasheya, Hasbeya, and Baalbeck.

14. The rejection by the Sublime Porte, of the proposal of Joussouf Pasha and the Musteshar, that the district of Djebail should be separated from Mount Lebanon, and added to the Pashalic of Tripoli.

15. The rejection also, for the present, of the proposal of the Musteshar Effendi to divide the Government of Mount Lebanon between the Emir Beshir and the Druse Sheik Naaman, of the house of Djinblat, to prevent a civil war between the Maronites and Druses.

16. The Porte's assent to the request of the Maronites, that the ex-Emir Beshir shall not be allowed to return to Mount Lebanon.

17. The immediate recal of the late Musteshar.

18. Fresh and positive instructions to Nejib Pasha to change his conduct towards the people, and to exert himself to give general satisfaction.

19. A firman to the Emir Beshir, confirming him in his Government of Mount Lebanon.

20. A vizirial letter to the Maronite Patriarch announcing to him the good disposition of the Sublime Porte towards the Syrians.

21. A Nishan Iftihar for the Emir and the Patriarch.

22. Permission from the Sublime Porte to the Undersigned, on his return to Syria, to see that these proposed arrangements and instructions be carried into effect by its officers, and to report thereon.

(Signed) R. WOOD.

Pera, August 9, 1841.

### No. 21.

*Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Therapia, September 15, 1841.*

I HAVE received a letter from Mr. Wood, dated Beyrout, the 29th August, where he had arrived on the 27th. Your Lordship is acquainted with the important matters committed to his charge by the Sublime Porte.

He says that he was received in the most amicable manner by the Seraskier and the Defterdar, and invited to reside with the latter till the termination of the business with which he is charged.

The Druses, that is, three or four of the Sheiks, Emir Raslan, Sheik Naaman, Sheik Joussof Talhook, &c., who were lately guilty of the murder of their relations, and of opposition to the Turkish Government, have sent messengers to Mr. Wood to say, they would unite with him to carry the orders of the Porte into execution if he would guarantee the safety of their persons at the meeting to be held to settle the affairs of the Mountain. Mr. Wood engaged to secure them from all danger, and promised that the Seraskier would receive them with courtesy, and would not allude to the past. These Chiefs have been endeavouring to excite the Druses against the Maronites, and have endeavoured to bring about a misunderstanding between us and the Maronites. Mr. Wood adds that his arrival has discouraged them, because they know he is aware of, and can expose their secret motives, and they have, therefore, for the moment, taken a new turn, and now only desire to be reconciled to the Emir Beshir and the Turkish authorities.

The Emir Beshir had arrived, and the other Chiefs of Lebanon were every moment expected to give their attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Wood had sent to the Maronite Patriarch and to Emir Haidar copies of the arrangement and of the concessions to which the Sublime Porte has agreed. He had pointed out the advantages to them of those arrangements, and urged those personages to exert their influence and power to persuade all parties to attend immediately, and to concur in them. Mr. Wood hopes that, before the end of the week, the principal points contained in my instruction to him will be carried into effect.

The Maronite Patriarch and the Emir Beshir have received their Nishans, of which Mr. Wood was the bearer, and were highly pleased with them.

I hope your Lordship may expect, with some confidence, that a desirable settlement will be effected by Mr. Wood. I, who know what he has effected before in Syria, do expect it.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, October 30, 1841.*

SYRIA is that portion of the empire in the condition of which you will naturally feel the warmest interest, and which may justly claim all your solicitude. Recently brought under the dominion of the Sultan by the assistance of his Allies, we may reasonably desire to see that the restoration of legitimate government should not give any cause to regret the usurped rule of Mehemet Ali. The devastation of these provinces by the horrors of war, and the sufferings and privations of the inhabitants, may well demand sympathy and relief from the Turkish Government. It is understood that a remission of taxation has been already granted to a considerable amount; but the losses of the people, in consequence of the destruction of their habitations and property by their Egyptian oppressors, and their present state of destitution, call for the utmost indulgence on the part of their rulers. You will use your endeavours to prevent, if possible, the benevolence of the Sultan from being frustrated, and the succours intended for the Syrians from being otherwise diverted by the corruption and rapacity of local governors.

The condition of the numerous Christian population of these districts could never have been a matter of indifference, and is now become a source of lively interest. Different sects put forward their respective claims to our attention, but a portion of Syria, scarcely either Christian or Mahometan, is immersed in a state almost of pagan superstition. The efforts of pious and devoted men may perhaps lead to the blessings of a more enlightened and of a purer faith. But whatever may be done or attempted for the intellectual and moral improvement of these persons, the utmost care should be taken never to shake their allegiance or diminish their loyalty, but to endeavour to render them contented with their lot and obedient to the government of their lawful Sovereign.

It is understood that the Porte has already appointed a Governor of Jerusalem, who is specially charged with the protection of the Christian population. As he is independent of the local authorities, and will communicate on all occasions with the Government at Constantinople, much good may be expected from this nomination.

## No. 23.

*Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 1.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, October 11, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a note addressed by Lord Ponsonby to the Sublime Porte, upon the receipt yesterday by his Lordship of despatches from Syria, which contain the account of a collision between two villages in Lebanon, in which several men of both parties have been killed.

I have, &amp;c.,

(Signed)

CHARLES BANKHEAD.

Inclosure in No. 23.

*Viscount Ponsonby to the Grand Vizier.**Therapia, October 10, 1841.*

HIS Excellency Rifaat Pasha undoubtedly has received accounts from Syria by this post, showing that the Christian population in that country are in danger. The Undersigned knows that his Excellency cannot be ignorant that this danger proceeds from the conduct of Nejib Pasha; and the Undersigned therefore is compelled to say that the responsibility for any harm and injury that may befall the Christians there, must rest upon the Sublime Porte.

The Undersigned, &amp;c.,

(Signed)

PONSONBY.



No. 24.

*Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 5.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, October 13, 1841.*

I BEG leave to apologize to your Lordship for not having sent by the messenger, Mr. Wood's account of the collision which, I regret to say, recently took place in the Lebanon between parties of Druses and Christians, in which many persons lost their lives.

I have now the honour of transmitting an extract of Mr. Consul Wood's despatch to Lord Ponsonby thereupon. His report likewise mentions some disturbance having taken place between the Arabs of the neighbouring desert and villages in the district of Nablous.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) **CHARLES BANKHEAD.**

Inclosure in No. 24.

*Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, September 23, 1841.*

ON the 14th instant a collision took place between the Druses of Bakalein and two other villages belonging to Sheik Naaman Djinblat and the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar. The enmity of these two sects to each other is very great; they almost seek the opportunity of evincing it; and I believe, in this instance, the collision originated in a dispute between some sportsmen. The following day the "Sout," or cry to arms, was resounded from mountain to mountain, but as I was crossing Mount Lebanon at the time, I sent immediately messengers to the Bishop of Zahlé, to request he would prevent the Christians from repairing to the scene of action, and I wrote a letter to the Emir of Hasbeya in Anti-Lebanon, to disperse the Druses that had collected for the same purpose. Fourteen Druses were killed in the affray, and thirty were wounded, and the Christians had five killed and fourteen wounded.

Great confusion and excitement seems to reign in the mountains of Nablous. At the death of Suleiman Effendi (the Governor of Nablous), Nejib Pasha appointed his brother, Mohammed Effendi, to the vacancy, much against the wish of the Nablousians, to whom the family of Abdul Hadi is particularly obnoxious, on account of their tyranny during the Egyptian administration. The other Sheiks commenced instantly to fortify themselves in their villages by reconstructing the forts that were demolished by Ibrahim Pasha. The Governor, Mohammed Effendi, marched immediately against them, and as the peasants shut themselves up in them he had recourse to force. Sheik Berkawy, one of the principal Chiefs of Nablous, fell into his hands, and is now in the prisons of Damascus.

An affray took place between the Arabs of the tribe of Sakr, and the Nablousians, near Ghor, in which the latter were beaten, and a great number of them killed, notwithstanding that they were supported by a body of irregular cavalry. In their flight Abdallah-el-Hussein, son of the deceased Governor, and his uncle, Mahmud Abdul Hadi, took refuge with about thirty of their followers in one of the villages of Nablous, but such is the feeling against that family, that the inhabitants availed themselves of the confusion to murder the former with his suite, and wounded the latter in his attempt to escape.

The Government has sent a large body of irregular troops to drive back the Arabs, and to establish order in that district.

## No. 25.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, November 25, 1841.*

I ENCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy\* of a despatch from Colonel Rose, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, stating the inconvenience which would result from the late Emir Beshir being allowed to return to Syria. This Chief, as your Excellency is aware, was removed from his command in the Lebanon, in the month of October, 1840, by virtue of a firman granted by the Sultan to the present Emir Beshir, whereupon the former gave himself up to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, and was conveyed in a British ship-of-war to Malta, where he remained until the end of last September.

Her Majesty's Government would much regret that the Sultan should be prevailed upon to rescind the prohibition against the late Emir returning to Syria. For Her Majesty's Government consider that the tendency of such relaxation on the part of the Sultan would be, if possible, to increase the disorganization which is unhappily prevalent in Syria at the present time, and to render the eventual settlement of that country a matter of the greatest difficulty.

Her Majesty's Government are so fully sensible of the great importance for the Porte that tranquillity should be secured in Syria at the earliest possible period, that they earnestly recommend to the Porte not to suffer itself to be induced by any promises on the part of the late Emir, to admit of his return to Syria on any terms whatsoever. Above all the Porte should not forget that the agent by whom the firman of investiture was transmitted to the present Emir Beshir, was a servant of the British Government; and that Her Majesty's Government have a right to expect that the Porte will not wantonly deprive him of the authority so conveyed to him.

## No. 26.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 27, 1841.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th of November respecting the late Emir Beshir, I have to state to your Excellency, that although Her Majesty's Government would deprecate the return of that person to Syria, Her Majesty's Government would not entertain the same objection to his son, the Emir Emin, who is with him at Constantinople, being appointed to the Government of Lebanon, if the Porte should desire to make a change in the Government of that district. From the accounts received from Her Majesty's servants in Syria, the capacity of the present Emir Beshir to administer the affairs of the Lebanon in the state of disorganization which unhappily prevails there, appears doubtful; and from the character which is given of the Emir Emin, it seems to Her Majesty's Government not improbable that the Porte may look upon him as a person likely to be an efficient successor to the present Emir Beshir. If this should be the case it would not be necessary that your Excellency should offer any objection to the Emir Emin's nomination to the Government of the Lebanon.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 27.

*Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Pera, November 16, 1841.*

I REGRET very much to find that there exists in Syria a spirit of animosity between the Druses and the Christians which has already led to one or two sanguinary conflicts, and which may be productive of still greater mischief. Both Colonel Rose and Mr. Wood agree in condemning the conduct of Nejib Pasha, Governor of Damascus. His open dislike to Christians, and the certainty of his connivance at the late attacks upon them, together with the state of terror which he has inspired throughout the Lebanon, in consequence of his taking such a decided part with the Druses, induced me to present the other day a strong recommendation to the Porte to deprive him of his present post. I urged all these topics upon Rifaat Pasha in a conversation I previously had with his Excellency, who enjoined me to communicate some facts and suggestions in a memorandum to which he would give his *appui* in the Council, for from all sides the Government receive complaints against their Governor of Damascus.

I have not heard what determination has been taken upon my remarks, but I learn from a good source, that the Government is satisfied at the manner in which I have presented them to their notice.

P.S.—I yesterday evening had a conversation with the Internuncio on the above subject, and his Excellency promised to second my endeavours to procure the dismissal of Nejib Pasha.

No. 28.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 22, 1841.*

I HAVE to state your Excellency, that the accounts which Her Majesty's Government continue to receive from Syria, occasion them much pain and uneasiness. The active part which England took last year in the operations which led to the restoration of that province to the immediate rule of the Sultan, while it causes Her Majesty's Government to feel a more than ordinary degree of interest in the welfare of its inhabitants, authorizes them to address to the Porte, through your Excellency, the strongest representations, with the view of inducing the Turkish Government to take immediate measures for the restoration of order and tranquillity in Syria.

The whole country south of Beyrout appears to be in a state of disorganization. There is no security for individuals, and the authority of the Sultan is merely nominal. But it is especially in Mount Lebanon that disorder has been allowed to proceed to excesses, which can only be put a stop to by prompt and vigorous measures on the part of the Porte.

The enmity between the Druses and the Maronites of Mount Lebanon is of ancient date. A difference of religious belief, added to a struggle for political supremacy between two parties, the numerical superiority of one being more than counterbalanced by the warlike qualities of the other, has continually produced contests between them. Of late years the oppressive rule of Mehemet Ali, acting nearly equally upon both, maintained peace between the rival parties; but their jealousies and animosities revived on the departure of the Egyptians, and have brought about the warfare which has desolated the Lebanon.

It has been alleged that the recent outbreak was accelerated by foreign suggestion, acting upon minds too easily excited. But, be that as it is may, Her Majesty's Government have at least the satisfaction of knowing that no such accusation can be brought against any British agents, and that Her Majesty's servants in Syria have spared no pains, and have shrunk from no

risk, in endeavouring to prevent, and to put an end to, the disorders which have taken place.

Whatever may have been the immediate cause of conflict, whether it arose from foreign instigation or from old internal feuds, and whichever party may be chargeable with having commenced hostilities, it is unfortunately too certain that, in the progress of the contest, both parties have vied with each other in committing every species of enormity. Men, women, and children, have, on both sides, been the victims; houses, churches, and entire villages have been destroyed; and the outrages have only ceased on the expulsion of the vanquished party from the scene of conflict.

It might, indeed, have been expected that the authorities of the Sultan in the neighbouring districts would have taken effectual means to put a stop to such a state of things. But Her Majesty's Government regret to say that, as far as they can learn, those authorities not only did not exert themselves as they ought to have done to restore order, but actually supplied one of the contending parties with the means of carrying on hostilities. At all events it is notorious that a Chief, named Shibli-el-Arian, who was high in favour with the Pasha of Damascus, was actively engaged on the side of the Druses.

This supineness on the part of the Turkish authorities, and the little regard which they paid to the representations of the British agents who pointed out to them the most effectual means for separating the combatants, would almost justify the belief that the contest of the rival parties was a source of satisfaction to their common rulers. The known sentiments of the Pasha of Damascus render it probable that he at least would not refrain from any measures which might tend to the oppression of the Christians; and the instigation of a warlike sect to attack their Christian neighbours would offer the readiest mode of giving effect to his own views with the least risk of compromising himself with his sovereign.

Her Majesty's Government cannot believe that such are the sentiments of the Porte. They are satisfied that the Sultan has no desire to withhold from any class of his subjects, Mahometans, Christians, or Druses, the privileges which, in the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané, he professed to confer equally upon all. They cannot but remember that one of the chief grounds alleged by the Porte, in justification of the resentment felt by the Sultan at the conduct of Mehemet Ali while ruler of Syria, was the oppression which he exercised towards the people of that province. But harsh as was the government of Mehemet Ali, he nevertheless maintained order in the country; and the Porte must not conceal from itself that the inhabitants of Syria may look back with regret upon the government of Mehemet Ali, if the power of the Sultan is insufficient to secure them in the enjoyment of the privileges which he has declared that he would bestow upon them.

The first point to which the Porte, under existing circumstances, should direct its attention, is to restore order in the Lebanon. That object will not be effected by fomenting the animosities of rival sects; but it may be brought about by teaching both parties to look up to the Sultan as their common protector. It may be difficult at once to allay the angry feelings which have been displayed in the late contest; but much may be accomplished, even in that respect, by compensating sufferers for losses which they may have sustained, and by reinstating them in the possessions from which they may have been ejected. Under any circumstances, however, it is indispensable that the Porte should place at the disposal of its authorities in Syria, a strong reinforcement of regular troops, sufficient to overawe all parties, but especially that party which has been victorious in the struggle. The Porte should order its military commanders to repress, at the outset, the first indications of a disposition, in any quarter, to renew the contest; and should enjoin them to maintain, on all occasions, the lawful authority of the Sultan. It is impossible to estimate at too high a value the importance to the Porte of the maintenance of order in Syria. But it cannot be expected that order will be preserved in Syria, unless the authorities of the Porte, in that country, demean themselves in such a way as to conciliate the good will of the inhabitants. Her Majesty's Government regret to say, that such has not hitherto been the case; and they do not hesitate, on the information which has reached

them, to pronounce that Nejib Pasha, the chief Turkish authority in Syria, is responsible for much of the evil which has occurred in that country.

Her Majesty's Government have more than once had occasion to point out to the Porte the disastrous consequences which must inevitably result from the maintenance of Nejib Pasha in his post of Pasha of Damascus. They have abstained of late from renewing the subject, because they relied on the assurances given by Rifaat Pasha to your Excellency's predecessor, as reported in his despatch of the 18th of July, that if Nejib Pasha failed in any degree whatever in obeying the orders of the Porte to avoid giving any cause of dissatisfaction to the Syrians, he should instantly be removed from his post. But Nejib Pasha still rules in Syria, notwithstanding that in defiance of those orders, he continues to oppress the Christian subjects of the Sultan, to interfere arbitrarily with the inferior governors, and to maintain in places of trust and influence persons notorious for the cruelties which have marked their conduct on former occasions, or known to be attached to the fortunes of Mehemet Ali.

Her Majesty's Government, therefore, feel themselves now entitled to claim from Rifaat Pasha, the fulfilment of the promise which he made to Viscount Ponsonby in July last; and they claim it with the greater earnestness at the present moment, because they are convinced that nothing but the most prudent and conciliatory conduct on the part of the Turkish authorities, can uphold the dominion of the Sultan in Syria, and that an example is required, to show those authorities that the Sultan is determined to keep the promises which he made to his people in the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané, and to punish all those, however exalted may be their rank, who shall presume to thwart his gracious intentions in that respect.

Your Excellency will communicate to the Turkish Government the observations contained in this despatch.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

### No. 29.

*Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 26.)*

My Lord,

Pera, December 1, 1841.

THE late troubles in Syria having been brought to the serious notice of the Sublime Porte, as well by their own agents as by Her Majesty's Embassy, and the other Missions at Constantinople, it has been at length resolved to send a person whose position and weight of character will be likely to produce a satisfactory arrangement of the differences existing in that distracted province.

I received the day before yesterday, in common with my colleagues of Austria, Prussia, Russia and France, a message from Rifaat Pasha, announcing this determination of the Porte; and I have since learnt that the Sultan's choice has fallen upon Yacoub Pasha, at present Governor of Adrianople. He will be instructed to examine thoroughly the state of the country, the causes of the troubles that now agitate it, and to make a full report thereupon to the Sultan.

Rifaat Pasha expressed great concern at the present deplorable state of Syria, and the determination of the Government to put an end to it, by obliging their officers to abide by those promises of reform and justice which were freely given on the restoration of that province to the Turkish authority.

Yacoub Pasha will have a difficult task to perform, for he will find the country a prey not only to intestine dissensions, kept alive by active foreign partizans, but he will likewise be met by a disinclination on the part of the people to pay even such moderate contributions as were apportioned to them, upon a revival of their finances here some months ago.

I understand that the conduct of Yacoub Pasha during the late dis-

turbances in Roumelia, has given such satisfaction to the Porte as to induce the Turkish Ministers to appoint him on the present occasion, and much benefit, it is thought, will accrue to Syria from his character and discernment.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.

No. 30.

*Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

(Extract.)

*Pera, December 17, 1841.*

I HAVE received despatches from Mr. Consul Wood, and from Colonel Rose, of the 22nd and 30th ultimo.

The former describes the state of parties as still very unsatisfactory, and he urges again the necessity of Nejib Pasha's recall from the Pashalic of Damascus, as the first step towards a return to tranquillity. There seems to be no doubt that, through his emissaries, Nejib encouraged the Druses in their late attacks upon the Christians of Mount Lebanon, but his principal agent, a Druse chief, Shibli-el-Arian, having overstepped the cautious instructions of the Pasha, ventured to attack the Maronites in the town of Zahlé, which they defended with spirit, and drove the assailants away. The consequence of success on that occasion, by the Druses, would have been hostilities between them and the Turkish forces, for Reshid Pasha marched to the neighbourhood of Zahlé, with a strong force, for the purpose of restoring order, and he would have been obliged to have arrested the progress of the Druses had they succeeded in defeating the inhabitants of that city. Hence the difficulty in which Nejib has since found himself.

Colonel Rose's despatches are of a later date, and represent the Druses to have retired, and tranquillity to be for the time restored.

No. 31.

*Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

My Lord,

*Pera, December 17, 1841.*

IN reference to my despatch of December 1, in which I mentioned to your Lordship the intention of the Porte to send Yacoub Pasha to Syria, as Commissioner to investigate into the various complaints of misgovernment existing in that country, I have the honour now to state, that at a Council of Ministers, held on Monday last, the Sultan decided upon revoking that appointment, and sending the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha instead. It is asserted, that His Imperial Majesty is influenced in this choice on account of the rank of the Seraskier being so much higher, and, as such, offering to the Syrians a greater proof of the interest His Majesty takes in the welfare of his subjects in that province. I understand, from good authority, that Mustapha Pasha will be furnished with authority to displace Nejib from the Pashalic of Damascus. I have all along been impressed with the necessity of this measure, and in obeying a request of Rifaat Pasha, to furnish him with the latest news from Syria, I availed myself of the opportunity of renewing to the Porte my opinions upon the subject. The Pasha sent me word that he approved of the memorandum thus furnished, and I know that it was to be read at the Council held on Monday last. It is decided that Tahir, the Capudan Pasha, is to be charged with the duties of the War Department during the Seraskier's absence. I believe there are other reasons than those ostensibly given for the appointment of Mustapha Pasha to Syria; complaints have been made of his want of activity (a failing ascribed to his present colleagues as well as to himself), and perhaps before the period of his return, circumstances may arise which will cause a person of greater vigour to be put in his place.

Mustapha Pasha is considered a man of good intentions; he is a strict

Mussulman, although not a bigot, but I doubt very much if his substitution for Yacoub Pasha may not turn out an unfortunate appointment, the latter being a man of very superior abilities to the Seraskier, and whose energy of character gave promise of some good being effected by his presence in Syria.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.

No. 32.

*Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 15, 1842.)*

My Lord,

*Pera, December 24, 1841.*

SOME days before I had the honour of receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 27th ultimo, addressed to Sir Stratford Canning, I thought it could do no harm to sound Rifaat Pasha as to the feelings of the Porte with regard to the Emir Emin, son of the ex-Emir Beshir.

I was induced to take this step in consequence of suggestions made on more than one occasion by Colonel Rose, that the nomination of that person as Emir Beshir might be of service in allaying the animosities existing in the Lebanon; and I was strengthened in my resolution in consequence of the character of the present Emir, who is acknowledged by all parties to be utterly unfit for his situation.

I beg leave to observe, however, that the remark thus offered to the Minister for Foreign Affairs was understood as a consequence of the Porte desiring such a change in the Government of Lebanon, and was not intended in any way to counsel such a measure, however necessary I might have thought it to be to do so. The Pasha received my remark in perfect good part, and I doubt not would have availed himself of it, had not his removal from office prevented any further communication upon the subject.

While steadily following the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's despatch of November 25, respecting the ex-Emir Beshir, I shall not lose sight, at a proper moment, of expressing the opinion of Her Majesty's Government with regard to his son.

I feel the absolute necessity for some alteration in the Government of Mount Lebanon, and I know of no one more likely to effect that desirable change than the person mentioned by your Lordship; but if the Porte should determine upon his nomination, great care should be taken in the preparation of his instructions, and in prescribing the extent of his authority in that country.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.

No. 33.

*Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 25.)*

My Lord,

*Pera, December 29, 1841.*

I RECEIVED yesterday letters from Mr. Consul Wood, dated Damascus, 15th instant, and I am happy to say, that from his accounts, the disturbances of which Syria was lately the theatre, have for the time subsided; and I trust that the presence of the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, who is entrusted with full powers from the Sultan to examine and report upon the grievances of the Syrians, will insure a continuance of this truce.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a despatch from Mr. Wood, by which you will see that the fears entertained by him of acts of violence on the part of the Mussulman population of Damascus towards the Christians, have likewise much subsided since he addressed your Lordship on the 20th November last.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.



Inclosure in No. 33.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Mr. Bankhead.*

Sir,

*Damascus, December 15, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of my reports to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, respecting the public insults offered to the Christians of Damascus, and the threats of the populace to massacre them indiscriminately.

I am happy in being able to state now, that there is no cause at present to make me apprehend any danger to the Rayahs residing here from the fanaticism of the Mussulman populace. The Grædees of the city and the Ulemas have assured me that they would afford them protection, in case the local Government was too weak to support them.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) R. WOOD.

No. 34.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 22, 1842.*

I HAVE to state to your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government have been much surprised at learning, within these few days, that the Porte entertains an unfavourable opinion of the conduct of Colonel Rose, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria. Her Majesty's Government are wholly at a loss to conceive what can have led to such an impression on the minds of the Turkish Ministers, and can have induced them to overlook the zeal and activity which Colonel Rose, from the first moment of his landing in Syria, has continually displayed for the service of the Sultan, and for the advancement of the true interests of the Turkish Government.

The Porte surely cannot have forgotten the gallant manner in which Colonel Rose, in the early part of his residence in Syria, led on a party of the Sultan's forces to the attack of a superior force of Mehemet Ali's followers, on which occasion he was wounded. Neither can the Porte have forgotten that Colonel Rose, from the time that the command of the British detachments in Syria devolved upon him, has unremittingly devoted himself to the maintenance of the Sultan's authority in the districts round Beyrout, by affording to the officers of the Sultan his advice and co-operation on all occasions, by impressing upon the native Chiefs that it was their bounden duty, under all circumstances, to maintain their allegiance to the Sultan, and by endeavouring to mitigate the animosities of rival sects which threatened to disturb the peace of the country, and to render unavailing the benevolent intentions of the Sultan for the happiness of his Syrian subjects. The Porte cannot have forgotten how much was due to the exhortations of Colonel Rose, when the question of the tribute to be raised in Mount Lebanon for the service of the Porte was in agitation; how zealously he exerted himself to bring about an adjustment of that difficult question in a manner satisfactory to the Porte; and how steadily he discountenanced all proceedings which could bear the appearance of disrespect for the sovereign authority of the Sultan. Least of all, can the Porte have forgotten the exertions which, during the melancholy contest which has recently desolated the Lebanon, Colonel Rose made to rouse the Turkish authorities to uphold the supremacy of the Sultan indifferently over all the inhabitants of the Lebanon; how earnestly he laboured to reconcile the contending parties; and how gallantly he exposed his life in attempting to put a stop to the calamities of civil war.

Whatever may be the opinion which the Ministers of the Sultan may have been led to entertain of Colonel Rose's conduct, the opinion of the

Turkish authorities on the scene of action, who have had the best opportunities of judging what that conduct was, is conclusive in his favour. Amidst all the perplexing difficulties with which he has had to contend, the Seraskier Selim Pasha has ever found in Colonel Rose a faithful counsellor and a zealous supporter, on all occasions when counsel and support were required by him for the maintenance of the Sultan's authority; and it is no wonder that, under such circumstances, Colonel Rose has succeeded in gaining the good-will of that commander.

The Porte cannot doubt that the British Government is anxious to promote the interests of the Sultan in all parts of his dominions; and the Porte cannot suppose that the British Government would have appointed Colonel Rose to the responsible situations of Commander of the British detachments, and afterwards of Consul-General, if it had not been convinced that Colonel Rose would faithfully act up to the intentions of his Government, by taking advantage of every opportunity which presented itself, for consolidating the dominion of the Sultan in Syria, and for rendering the possession of that country of real benefit to the Porte.

Your Excellency is aware that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of Colonel Rose's conduct: and the knowledge of that fact, if the Porte really entertains the opinion which it professes to hold of the disinterested attachment felt for it by the British Government, should convince the Turkish Ministers that any reports which may have reached them to the prejudice of Colonel Rose, originate in the malevolence of individuals who seek, by calumnious insinuations, to discredit the accounts which may reach the Porte, through Colonel Rose, of their own careless indifference to the interests, and disobedience to the will of the Sultan.

I have thought it right to apprise your Excellency, at the earliest period, of the feelings with which Her Majesty's Government would receive from the Porte any complaints against Colonel Rose's conduct up to the 7th of December last, the date of his last reports. Her Majesty's Government, approving, as they do, entirely of that conduct, would look upon any such communication as an evidence of distrust in the intentions of Great Britain towards Turkey.

After all, however, it is possible that the information which has reached Her Majesty's Government, as to the feelings of the Porte with respect to Colonel Rose, is incorrect. Her Majesty's Government trust that they have been misinformed; but, if the contrary should be the case, I have to instruct your Excellency to seek an interview with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to cause my present despatch to be translated to him in your presence, and to add such other observations as may occur to you as likely to produce a suitable impression on the minds of the Turkish Minister, and of his Colleagues.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

#### No. 35.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 19.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, January 24, 1842.*

A TURKISH steam-vessel arrived this morning from Beyrout with despatches from the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, and also having on board the Emir Beshir El-Kassim, deposed and sent to Constantinople by that functionary. M. Pisani, whose attention I had directed to these circumstances, writes to me in the following terms:—

“After having ascertained the fact of the arrival of Emir Beshir El-Kassim, I saw Sarim Effendi, who gave me the following intelligence: ‘Yes; Emir Beshir is arrived; he has been deposed by Mustapha Nouri Pasha in virtue of discretionary power, and in consequence of petitions presented by the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, both Christians and Druses, asking as a favour the deposition of Emir Beshir El-Kassim, and

measures than any which the Powers have hitherto allowed themselves to contemplate.

I repeat, that it is only from your Lordship and from Her Majesty's Government that the means of bringing about a final settlement of affairs in Syria, can now be expected to proceed; and it is quite unnecessary for me to urge the paramount importance of hastening that decision which is rendered necessary by the obstinate adherence of the Porte to her own view of the subject, and by the inefficiency of those exertions which I have made, in concert with the Representatives of the other Five Powers, to overcome it.

They, it seems, like myself, continue to take advantage of such incidents as arise to operate on the opinions of the Turkish Ministers, but our action under the present instructions is too feeble to pass for more than a reminder of what we urged at our conference, and an evidence of the attention still directed by the five principal Cabinets of Europe to the course of events in Syria, and the final condition of that province.

Inclosure in No. 62.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, June 11, 1842.*

ON Wednesday, the 8th, at midnight, Captain Michell informed me that horsemen had arrived at Gazir with orders to arrest as many as forty-five Christian Chiefs and commoners, all of them favourable to the Shehabs. I immediately went on board, and learnt from a priest who had just come from Gazir, that this occurrence had produced the greatest excitement; that several Chiefs wished to take refuge in the ships, and that they declared that if they could not do so, they would run on the horsemen who had been sent to arrest them, and kill them. I immediately wrote a note to an influential priest there, telling him to acquaint the leading people that one act of violence would be ruinous to the people; that either that, or a movement towards the ships, would probably cause the march of the Albanians to the Mountain; and that, in short, so repugnant to me would be any act of violence to the authorities, that if it took place, I would request Captain Michell to take the frigate and steamer off the coast, in order to mark our disapproval of any recourse to force. This advice had the desired effect, except that the people did not stop to be taken, but ran away; but there has not been the slightest resistance. On the contrary, a horseman was seen yesterday, bringing in a prisoner single-handed, from the heart of the Kesrouan; another also has been taken.

I thought it possible that the Seraskier, after what had passed, might not receive my counsel in an agreeable spirit. I therefore got M. d'Adelbourg to go to him, and represent the danger and impolicy of sending a few horsemen to arrest the most influential people in the country, because they had not signed a petition in favour of Turkish rule; his Excellency having declared, over and over again, that everybody might act, in that respect, as he liked. The Seraskier declared that he did not know where Gazir (the capital of the Kesrouan) was; that he had sent no horsemen to arrest persons,—in short, that he knew nothing whatever of the matter. This is not credible; for a person here positively states that he saw the list of persons to be arrested with Omar Pasha, and that it was signed by Mustapha Pasha. The arrests were, therefore, part of an old plan to cause disturbance in the Mountain, and thus justify the march of Albanians into it, and compromise me as the cause of the outbreak by having given refuge to the Emir Abdullah. I got Mr. Ravris quite to agree with me as to the non-advisableness of taking people on board the ships. I also begged M. d'Adelbourg to tell the Seraskier that so full of risk was the measure of arresting popular chiefs on a popular question, that Captain Michell had been kind enough to allow me the use of the steamer to take the news to your Excellency, were so dangerous a measure persisted in.

No. 63.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 21, 1842.*

THE recent accounts which have been received by Her Majesty's Government of the state of Syria, although presenting some features of improvement, are, on the whole, far from satisfactory. It is impossible that we should not continue to view with interest the condition of this province; at the same time, it must be matter of grave consideration to what precise extent of interference the Allied Powers would be justified in resorting, for the purpose of applying a remedy to existing evils, and consistently with a due regard for the independence of the Porte.

The situation of the Christian population might, under any circumstances, have called for the sympathy of European Governments; but, in the present case, our intervention is authorized, to a certain extent, by positive engagements.

With a view to induce the inhabitants of Syria to assist in the liberation of the province from the yoke of the Egyptians, promises were made by the Allies, and especially by British agents, with the sanction and on the behalf of the Turkish Government, which it is essential to our honour and good faith, that we should see fulfilled. These engagements appear chiefly to have referred to the preservation of the privileges of the Christian population, to a remission of taxation, and, generally, to an improved administration of the province. Provided these results be secured, it must be a matter of comparatively less interest to the Allies, by what means it shall be effected.

The amount of taxes exacted by the Porte has already been greatly reduced, and there appears to be no reasonable ground of complaint on this head. But the insecurity of life and property, the absence of law and order, and the numerous acts of individual oppression, are such as loudly to call for the immediate attention of the Sultan and of his Allies.

No doubt, the restoration of the Government of Mount Lebanon to a member of the family of Shehab, appeared to offer a natural guarantee for the security of the Christian privileges; and the demand made at Constantinople to this effect by the Representatives of the Allied Powers, although made without instructions, was approved by their respective Governments.

It must, however, be admitted, that no positive engagement had been entered into by the Turkish Government on this subject; and it is indeed obvious that this condition cannot reasonably be considered as indispensable. It may happen that the government of the Mountain could not properly be entrusted to any member of the family, in consequence of personal disqualification, or from other sufficient causes. In truth, at the present moment, there appears to be but one individual of this family, whom it could be considered expedient to invest with supreme authority. The late Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, although highly estimable in many respects, has proved himself, in the opinion of all, to be unequal to the difficulties of the situation, and has made his maintenance in the Government impracticable. His uncle and predecessor the ex-Emir Beshir, by his long administration of rapacity and oppression, has rendered himself so odious, that his restoration to power would be even worse than the nomination of a Turkish Governor.

Your Excellency has not been instructed to press upon the Porte the appointment of the Emir Emin, the son of the ex-Emir Beshir; but from his character and popularity in the district, Her Majesty's Government would have seen his nomination with satisfaction, and would have been disposed to think that it might have insured to the Mountain the blessings of tranquillity and good government. At the same time, whatever may

be the recommendation of this individual, it is clear that the pretensions of the family of Shehab, resting upon no positive hereditary right, are not such as we could safely maintain in the face of all opposition by the Turkish Government.

We must also recollect that the Druses may entertain obstinate and well-founded objections to the restoration of this family to supreme power. In addition to the causes of ancient hostility, the recent encroachments of the Maronite Princes have gradually weakened, and even destroyed, the authority of the Sheiks Beshir, or local Druse Governors, who exercised jurisdiction, to a certain extent, over the individuals of their own nation, but which office has been finally annihilated altogether by the tyranny of the ex-Emir Beshir.

Taking into view the existing state of Mount Lebanon, and having reference to the long-continued hostility of the Druses and Maronites, rendered still more inveterate by recent events, it has always appeared to me that the most natural and judicious course would be, for the Porte to select a native Chief from among each of these people, who should respectively govern his own nation, under the superintendence and control of a Supreme Turkish Authority, either at Damascus or elsewhere; but which should never be brought into immediate contact with the population of either persuasion. In this case, of course, it would be necessary that Omar Pasha should be displaced from the government of the Mountain, even if his removal had not been required by other considerations.

I have been informed that difficulties would attend the execution of this plan, in consequence of the great intermixture of the Druses and Maronites, which might render their separate government scarcely practicable. This may certainly be the case in particular districts, and some means must be devised to remedy the inconvenience; but it is not believed to exist to any great extent; nor would it present any insuperable obstacles to the adoption of the project.

At all events, the Austrian Cabinet has recently suggested a mode of settlement of this description, which I am happy to find that the Turkish Ambassador at Her Majesty's Court is disposed to view favourably, and which, before his departure from Vienna, he had already recommended to the consideration of his Government.

Your Excellency has also seen in such an arrangement, the best practical solution of our existing difficulties; and I have reason to hope that it will not be otherwise regarded by your Colleagues at Constantinople.

I do not think it material very accurately to weigh the relative value of the petitions from Syria, received by the Turkish Government, and by the Representatives of the Allied Powers. That a Christian population should profess to desire the appointment of a Turkish Governor, certainly appears extraordinary, and affords reason to suppose that such petitions must have been obtained by undue means. At the same time, it must be admitted that the restoration of the ex-Emir Beshir, which is comprised in the prayer of the counter-petitions, is as little likely to be the real desire of the people as the establishment of a Turkish Pasha.

It is not easy, in any country, to ascertain the genuine opinions and wishes of its inhabitants in matters of this kind. But in Syria, without the means of free inquiry and deliberation, and exposed to every species of intimidation, corruption, and intrigue, anything like a popular voice, expressed in this matter, must be very uncertain.

Our chief obligation is to look to the execution of our own engagements, to the security of the Christian population, the preservation of their privileges, and the general improvement of the district. But we must be careful not to attempt too much; and we ought to recollect, in our endeavours to promote the welfare of the inhabitants, that we are dealing with a Turkish province, into which it must always be difficult to introduce the enlightened systems of government which prevail in many States of Europe.

Your Excellency will, acting in concert with your Colleagues, submit to the Porte a proposal for the establishment of an administration in

Syria, founded on the principle I have already explained. You will recommend it by such means, and under such modifications, as may be most likely to obtain the assent of the Turkish Government, and to facilitate the success of the measure when adopted. Your local knowledge and experience will enable you to offer the necessary suggestions for this purpose.

With reference to the mode of your communications, I am disposed to concur with your Excellency in thinking, not only that it will not be necessary henceforward to act upon the Porte by joint notes or representations, but that it will be preferable, except perhaps on very peculiar and urgent occasions, to abstain from such a system, as presenting too much the air of assumed mastery on the part of the Allied Powers, and therefore likely to irritate the Porte, and to excite its resistance, rather than to conciliate and to persuade.

But if it be thought desirable to lay aside this system, it is most essential that the same practice of mutual consultation and of deference towards each other, which has hitherto prevailed amongst the Missions of the Allied Courts at Constantinople, should still be adhered to, and a strictly concurrent line of action adopted on all great occasions; although each Minister may present to the Porte the result of such joint and united deliberations, in the manner which his own judgment may lead him to consider as best calculated to produce the end desired by all.

I cannot close this despatch without again calling the attention of your Excellency to the continued presence in Syria of Albanian troops. You have already protested against the employment of this irregular and undisciplined force in such a service; and I have to enjoin you to repeat your remonstrances, in case they should unfortunately still be necessary. These barbarians have committed outrages of the most revolting description, and have spread terror throughout the peaceful inhabitants of the country. In a province where so much is required to conciliate the good will and affection of the Christian population, it appears a species of perverseness quite inexplicable, to employ a force of this lawless and ferocious character, and whose fidelity to the Turkish Government itself is even doubtful.

In my first instructions to your Excellency, relating to Syria, I pointed out the importance of employing only regular and well-disciplined troops in the province; and I am quite at a loss to understand how advice so obviously consistent with the true interests of the Porte, should have been entirely disregarded.

I have urged this subject in the strongest manner on the attention of the Ambassador of the Sultan at Her Majesty's Court, who has promised to represent to his Government the necessity which exists for the immediate recall of the Albanians from Syria.

One thing is certain. With every desire to respect the independence of the Porte, to abstain from all interference in the internal administration of the empire, and, making allowance for the many and great difficulties in the government of Syria, the Powers of Christendom will never tolerate a continuance of these excesses, which are, in truth, perfectly gratuitous, and which it is manifestly in the power of the Turkish Government at once to check.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 64.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—Received August 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Buyukderé, July 17, 1842.*

THE reports of what occurs in Syria being conveyed to England directly from the Consuls themselves, a repetition of them by me would be a needless tax upon your Lordship's patience; and it is hardly necessary for me to add, that I have omitted no suitable opportunity of either communicating to the Turkish Government the wishes and complaints of the Maronite population, or fixing its attention upon the disappointment and injury occasioned by its measures and the conduct of its agents in Syria.

No. 65.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 3.)*

My Lord,

*Buyukderé, August 16, 1842.*

THE instructions respecting Mount Lebanon, contained in your Lordship's despatch of July 21, shall be carried into effect to the best of my humble ability, and I am inclined to think, though I cannot pledge myself to the correctness of the impression, that the Porte is already prepared to acquiesce in the views of Her Majesty's Government, especially with respect to the removal of the Albanian troops from Syria, or at least from the Christian parts of that province. I have communicated with each of my colleagues upon the subject, and I am happy to find that they are all quite ready to act in concert with me for the execution of your Lordship's instructions. Neither the French Minister, nor the Russian and Prussian *Chargés d'Affaires* have yet received the additional instructions of their respective Courts, but they are equally willing to proceed at once in the prosecution of the common object, such as it is indicated in your Lordship's despatch.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs will, in all probability, refer us to the approaching return of Selim Bey, who is expected to reach Constantinople in a few days. Time will, I think, be gained by putting the Porte in possession of our suggestions before his arrival.

Meanwhile, a new set of petitions, affirmed to be signed or sealed by more than 11,000 inhabitants of the Mountain, has been presented to the Porte in favour of a Christian Governor, and the re-establishment in that capacity of some individual member of the Shehab family.

That difficulties of the nature described by your Lordship, are to be encountered in the course of our efforts to settle the affairs of Mount Lebanon upon the proposed principle, is unquestionable; but I trust that it will not be found impossible to overcome them, if once the Porte can be persuaded to enter with us into a fair and friendly consideration of the subject.

I am no less surprized than your Lordship at the obstinacy, and I may justly add, the insincerity and deceit, with which the Porte has persisted in employing Albanians for the intimidation of the Christians of Mount Lebanon. The idea originated, I believe, with the Grand Vizier, and the double motive of removing them from their own province, and employing them in mountain warfare, to which they are particularly accustomed, was probably the cause of its adoption. I have spared no pains to hasten their recall, and have more than once received a promise that my representations should be complied with.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.



No. 66.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 15.)*

My Lord,

*Buyukderé, August 25, 1842.*

I HAVE agreed with my colleagues as to the most advisable mode of carrying into effect your Lordship's instructions on the subject of Mount Lebanon. I should have done so with less delay, if Baron de Bourqueney had not expressed a wish to wait for his own instructions, and the delay is, in fact, of little consequence, as the Porte will certainly withhold her opinion until the return of Selim Bey, who is not expected from Syria for several days.

The Prussian Chargé d'Affaires and Monsieur de Titow are still without fresh instructions, but each of them has declared his readiness to act in concert with me. The French Minister and the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires have received, from their respective Courts, instructions similar to mine.

We have met together and talked over the different points of the proposed settlement, in order to secure a thorough uniformity of action, and we intend to propose the plan traced out by your Lordship in the form of an instruction addressed to our respective interpreters, and communicated separately by them, at short intervals of time, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

A copy of my instruction is herewith inclosed.

Your Lordship will observe, that I have again, upon this occasion, urged the necessity of recalling the Albanian troops from Syria. My colleagues agreed with me in the expediency of combining this demand with our proposal for the settlement of Affairs in Mount Lebanon. I was happy to learn, in the course of our conversation, that Sarim Effendi had repeated to the French Minister the assurance, which he had given to me, that 2,500 of the Albanians had already been ordered to proceed elsewhere.

I should partake of your Lordship's surprise, at the disappointment which we have frequently experienced on this subject, if I had not perceived so many other proofs of the pertinacity with which the Grand Vizier adheres to his own peculiar system of policy, and of the ingenuity which he displays in counteracting the wiser and more benevolent intentions of his sovereign. It is but fair, however, to add, that there would be little wisdom in keeping the Albanians at home, and that they are well adapted by their habits, to the perils and difficulties of mountain warfare.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 66.

*Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.*

Monsieur,

*Buyukderé, 26 Août, 1842.*

LE temps qui s'est écoulé depuis le 27 Mai, jour de la Conférence tenue entre les Ministres de la Porte et les Représentans des Cinq Puissances relativement aux affaires de la Syrie, n'a rien fait perdre du grand intérêt qui s'y rattache. J'ai mis sous les yeux du Gouvernement le rapport de tout ce qui s'est passé dans cette occasion. Je me suis fait un devoir de rendre justice aux informations et aux raisonnemens des Ministres Ottomans. J'ai exposé franchement les graves difficultés qui entouraient et qui entourent encore la question du Mont Liban.

La conséquence en est, que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté a porté son attention sur les diverses parties de cette question avec la connaissance de tout ce qui était nécessaire pour en former un jugement définitif. Il s'en suit de plus, que les instructions dont je viens d'être muni, expriment la pensée toute entière de ma Cour, et méritent, à ce titre et à celui de la sage bienveillance qui les distingue, la considération spéciale du Conseil Ottoman.

Il appartient aux autres Représentans de faire savoir à son Excellence le

Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, l'avis de leurs Cours respectives, basé, sans aucun doute, sur les mêmes connaissances ainsi que sur le même désir de contribuer au bien-être de cet Empire. Il est à présumer que la Porte reconnaîtra dans leurs communications, comme dans la mienne, les égards dûs à son indépendance, et l'empreinte d'une sincère conviction.

On dirait, en effet, que toutes les opinions se réunissent à cet égard autour d'un centre commun. Mais, quoiqu'il en soit, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ne désire que le maintien de l'autorité légitime du Sultan de manière à garantir au Mont Liban la jouissance d'une tranquillité permanente, et d'une bonne administration fondée dans ses anciens privilèges. Ce désir lui est inspiré moins par les sympathies de la religion et de l'humanité, que par le respect que tout Gouvernement doit à ses propres engagements, et par l'intérêt que réclame de lui à juste titre un pays dont le sort actuel pèse en grande partie sur sa responsabilité. Malgré qu'on n'y a pas eu recours aux armes depuis quelques mois, le mécontentement général qui règne dans la Montagne a besoin d'être apaisé par d'autres moyens que la force. Quand même on perdrait de vue les pétitions qui se déclarent de jour en jour plus franchement contre l'état actuel des choses, serait-il possible de s'aveugler sur l'effet que doivent nécessairement produire les actes d'un arbitraire violent, dont il n'y a que trop d'évidences ? Corrompre ou intimider les notables, éloigner ou emprisonner les chefs, sembler acquiescer à la spoliation des biens, sont-ils là les vrais moyens de gagner les cœurs et de concilier les esprits ?

Pour fermer tant de blessures, pour calmer tant d'inquiétudes, et faire oublier un passé désastreux, il faut que la justice reprenne sa vigueur ; que l'ordre soit établi sur des bases solides, que l'autorité soit mise en harmonie avec les mœurs, les besoins et les traditions du pays ; que le peuple, enfin, détourné de l'influence étrangère, puisse reposer de bonne foi à l'ombre de la protection du Souverain.

Il s'agit donc de trouver quelque combinaison propre à effectuer ces divers objets sans toutefois s'abuser sur les changemens nécessités par une série de circonstances, déplorables à la vérité, mais qu'il est impossible maintenant d'effacer. Les élémens d'une pareille combinaison se présentent à la vue. Deux peuples, pour la plupart séparés, partagent le Mont Liban. L'autorité souveraine du pays appartient de droit au Sultan. Que cette autorité soit représentée par un Vizir, surintendant de tout le pays, et revêtu des pouvoirs nécessaires pour en maintenir la paix. Que l'administration locale soit confiée à deux individus, nommés par l'autorité suprême, et appelés respectivement à gérer les affaires de son district, un Druse pour les Druses, et un Chrétien pour les Chrétiens. Que chacun de ces chefs soit tenu à résider au milieu de la population dont il doit être responsable, tandis que le dépositaire du pouvoir suprême sera établi parmi ses correligionnaires dans le voisinage immédiat de la Montagne. Par ce moyen la jouissance des anciennes franchises sera tempérée par une surveillance salutaire, l'irritation mutuelle n'aura plus d'aliment, l'administration sera exercée sans gêne, l'autorité se maintiendra sans danger.

Il faut avouer que l'exécution de ce plan pourrait bien rencontrer quelques difficultés de détail. Il existe, par exemple, tel village où les Druses et les Maronites se trouvent entremêlés. C'est là peut-être l'obstacle le plus sérieux, qui, néanmoins, ne doit pas arrêter l'adoption d'une mesure sous d'autres rapports satisfaisante. Les moyens de le surmonter ne manquent pas.

Encore faut-il avouer que beaucoup dépend du choix des individus. Pour les peuplades de la Montagne il importe que leurs Princes réunissent avec des qualités personnelles, le prestige qui dérive du sang et d'un nom illustré par les traditions de famille. A celui qui doit représenter plus immédiatement l'autorité de son Souverain, il faut une réputation pour la justice, la modération et la fermeté. Pour ce qui regarde également le Vizir et les Princes, il est essentiel que leurs antécédans ne rappellent ni les souffrances ni les crimes des troubles passés.

Mais, par-dessus tout, il importe que le Conseil Ottoman se hâte de manifester la bienveillance qui doit présider à l'avenir du Mont Liban, par le prompt éloignement de la Syrie de ces bandes Albanaises qui n'ont que trop longtemps jeté l'épouvante parmi les habitans paisibles de la Montagne, indignés de leur présence, et dégoûtés par leurs excès. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté saura gré à la Sublime Porte de ce qu'elle a déjà donné une

autre destination à la moitié de ces troupes ; mais il n'aura pas le sentiment d'avoir accompli son devoir, jusqu'à ce qu'un pareil fléau ne soit entièrement retiré du pays. Les Puissances Chrétiennes, malgré toute la considération qu'elles ont vouée à la Porte, ne sauraient acquiescer à un abus accompagné de tant de mal facile à écarter.

Voilà, Monsieur, ce qui je vous invite à communiquer de ma part à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, et je vous autorise à lui remettre une copie de cette instruction, en ajoutant que j'espère d'apprendre un moment plus tôt la décision de la Porte.

Je suis, &c.,  
(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING.

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Buyukdéré, August 26, 1842.*

THE time which has elapsed since the 27th of May, the day of the Conference held between the Ministers of the Porte and the Representatives of the Five Powers relative to the affairs of Syria, has not caused any diminution in the great interest which belongs to them. I have submitted to my Government the report of all that passed on that occasion. I made it my duty to do justice to the information and reasonings of the Ottoman Ministers. I stated frankly the serious difficulties which surrounded and which still surround the question of Mount Lebanon.

The consequence is, that Her Majesty's Government have directed their attention to the various points of this question with the knowledge of all that was necessary to form a definitive judgment thereupon. Hence it results, moreover, that the instructions with which I have now been furnished, express the entire opinion of my Court, and merit, on this account, and on that of the wise benevolence which distinguishes them, the special consideration of the Ottoman Council.

It belongs to the other Representatives to make known to his Excellency, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the opinion of their respective Courts, based, without doubt, on the same knowledge, as well as on the same desire to contribute to the well-being of this empire. It is to be presumed, that the Porte will recognize, in their communications, as in mine, the respect due to her independence, and the impression of a sincere conviction.

It might be said, in fact, that all opinions unite in this respect around one common centre ; but, be that as it may, Her Majesty's Government only desire the maintenance of the legitimate authority of the Sultan, so as to guarantee to Mount Lebanon the enjoyment of permanent tranquillity, and of a good administration founded on its ancient privileges. It entertains this desire, less on account of the sympathies of religion and humanity, than on account of the respect which every Government owes to its own engagements, and the interest which a country, for whose actual condition it is in a great degree responsible, justly claims from it. Notwithstanding that recourse has not been had to arms for some months, the general discontent which reigns in the Mountain had need to be appeased by other means than force. Were even petitions to be lost sight of, which declare from day to day more frankly against the actual state of things, would it be possible to be blind to the effect which must necessarily be produced by acts of arbitrary violence, of which there are but too many proofs. To corrupt or intimidate the principal persons, to alienate or imprison the chiefs, to appear to acquiesce in the plunder of property, are these the true means to gain the hearts and to conciliate the minds of people ?

In order to heal so many wounds, to calm so much anxiety, to consign to oblivion past disasters, it is necessary that justice should resume her vigour, that order should be established on solid bases, authority be put in unison with the manners, the wants and traditions of the country ; that the people, in short, diverted from foreign influence, should be able to repose, implicitly, under the shadow of the protection of the Sovereign.

The point, then, is to find some plan calculated to effect these different objects, without, at the same time, disregarding the changes rendered necessary by a series of circumstances, deplorable in truth, but which it is impossible now to efface. The elements of such a plan present themselves. Two races, in most things separate, divide Mount Lebanon. The sovereign authority of the country belongs, of right, to the Sultan; let this authority be represented by a Vizier governing the whole country, and furnished with the powers necessary for preserving the peace of it; let the local administration be confided to two individuals, named by the superior authority, and appointed respectively to manage the affairs of his district, a Druse for the Druses, and a Christian for the Christians. Let each of these chiefs be bound to reside in the midst of the people for which he is to be responsible, whilst the depositary of supreme power shall be established among the people of his own creed in the immediate neighbourhood of the Mountain. By this means the enjoyment of the ancient liberties will be tempered by a salutary superintendence, the mutual irritation will have no further sustenance, the administration will be exercised without constraint, the authority will be maintained without danger.

It must be admitted, that the execution of this plan may probably encounter some difficulties of detail. There may exist for example, a village where Druses and Maronites are mixed. That is, perhaps, the most serious obstacle, which, nevertheless, ought not to prevent the adoption of a measure in all other respects satisfactory. Means will not be wanting for surmounting it.

Again, it must be allowed, that much depends on the choice of individuals. For the inhabitants of the Mountain, it is requisite that their princes should unite with personal qualities the influence which is derived from birth, and from a name illustrious by family traditions. He who is to represent more immediately the authority of the Sovereign, should enjoy a reputation for justice, moderation, and firmness. As regards equally the Vizier and the Princes, it is essential that their previous history should not recall either the sufferings or the crimes of past troubles.

But, above all, it is important that the Ottoman Council should hasten to manifest the benevolence which is to watch over the future condition of Mount Lebanon, by the prompt withdrawal from Syria of the Albanian bands which have for too long a time spread terror among the peaceable inhabitants of the Mountain, outraged by their presence, and disgusted by their excesses. Her Majesty's Government will be obliged to the Porte for having already given another destination to half of these troops; but it will not feel that it has fulfilled its duty until such a scourge is entirely withdrawn from the country. The Christian Powers, notwithstanding all the consideration which they have observed towards the Porte, cannot acquiesce in an abuse attended with so much evil which is easy to be removed.

Such, Sir, is what I request you to communicate from me to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I authorize you to deliver to him a copy of this instruction, adding that I hope to learn at the earliest moment the decision of the Porte.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 67.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 22.)*

(Extract.)

*Buyukderé, August 30, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of M. Pisani's report of the language held by the Reis Effendi on receiving a communication of my instruction respecting the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

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I am informed that Selim Bey, in private, holds a language in keeping with that of the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, as if he was persuaded that the petitions forwarded by that Pasha declare the real wishes of the Maronite population. The accounts which I receive from Colonel Rose continue, on the contrary, to affirm that the great majority of signatures is in favour of a Christian administration in the Mountain.

Inclosure in No. 67.

*M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Excellence,

*Pera, ce 29 Août, 1842.*

CONFORMEMENT à vos ordres, j'ai communiqué à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères les instructions que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 26 courant.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères m'a fait la réponse suivante :

“La Porte a envoyé des instructions à Selim Bey en conséquence de ce qui s'était passé dans la conférence du 27 Mai dernier. Selim Bey est de retour depuis hier ; mais nous n'avons pas encore lu ni les dépêches dont il est porteur, ni son propre rapport. Après que nous aurons pris connaissance de leur contenu, nous nous entendrons avec MM. les Représentans des Cinq Puissances pour faire ce qui sera jugé nécessaire. Je vous prie de porter cette réponse à la connaissance de son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning, avec bien des complimens de ma part.”

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,  
(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

*Pera, August 29, 1842.*

AGREABLY to your orders, I communicated to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the instructions which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me, dated the 26th instant.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs made me the following answer:—

“The Porte has sent instructions to Selim Bey in consequence of what passed in the Conference of the 27th of May last. Selim Bey returned yesterday ; but we have not yet read either the despatches of which he is bearer, or his own report. When we shall have acquired a knowledge of their contents, we will confer with the Representatives of the Five Powers, in order to do what shall be deemed necessary. I beg you to carry this answer to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, with many compliments from me.”

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) FRED. PISANI.

No. 68.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Buyukderé, September 16, 1842.*

IN pursuance of an invitation from the Porte, and in company with the Representatives of Russia, France, Austria, and Prussia, I waited yesterday upon his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with the view of again deliberating upon the affairs of Mount Lebanon. Sarim Effendi was not alone. The Captain Pasha, the President of the Council, and Riza Pasha,

were also present, and each in his turn took part in the deliberation. No official protocol was taken on either side, and although I was requested to express the sentiments of my colleagues, that circumstance did not prevent their taking part occasionally in the argument, and from the French Minister, in particular, I received an active and energetic support.

As the discussion rested almost entirely upon the same grounds as before, it cannot be necessary to trouble your Lordship with its details.

According to the Turkish Representatives, the tranquillity of Syria was the common object of both parties, and that object, now happily, as they said, effected by the measures of the Seraskier, would be secured in future by the appointment of a Vizier over the whole district from Acre to Tripoli, including the population of Mount Lebanon. In support of this view, it was asserted that Selim Bey, who was present, had ascertained, by local inquiry, that the inhabitants of the Mountain were very generally in favour of a Turkish Governor; that the petitions sent up by the Seraskier were fairly obtained, and really expressive of the popular inclination; and that whatever allegations of a contrary description had been made by the Consuls, they were, in fact, nothing but the interested statements of the Shehab family and their immediate adherents.

It was further advanced on the same side, that the separation of the Maronites and Druses under different local Chiefs of the respective races, would prove a fresh element of disorder; that, under the Maronite Emirs much occasional disturbance had taken place, and frequent cruelties had been committed; that the Turkish Pasha, whether of Acre or elsewhere, who had always been understood to extend his authority over Mount Lebanon, had occasionally interfered by deposing the Emir, and that of the claims for plundered property, half of the ascertained amount had been liquidated, while the remaining half was in a course of judicial settlement.

The Turkish Ministers went on to state, that while they saw no objection to place a Kaimacan or Lieutenant of the Superintending Vizier in the immediate government of each section of the Mountain, and to allow a Kiaja or Chargé d'Affaires from each party to reside at the Vizier's court, they could not reconcile the appointment of a Druse and Christian Prince to those subordinate charges, with their view of what was necessary to secure the Sultan's interests and the tranquillity of the country. They further observed, that the local administration was sufficiently provided for by the Hadji Bashas or Village notables, to whom it was customary in Turkey to commit the management of local interests; and that since the Allied Powers did not mean to dictate, but simply to advise what they conceived to be most conducive to the tranquillity of Mount Lebanon, they would not accept that advice consistently with their own conviction, founded, as it was, on the statement of their accredited agents, the results of local inquiry, and the ascertained inclinations of the inhabitants themselves.

The Representatives, on the other hand, repeated the arguments formerly adduced; they dwelt particularly upon those contained in your Lordship's instruction to me; they contrasted the information derived from their respective Consuls in Syria with the assertions of Selim Bey; they again complained of the corruption and intimidation which had been used in getting up the petitions for a Turkish Governor; and, feeling strongly the inconvenience of engaging in a process of mutual recrimination, implored the Turkish Ministers to take a more statesmanlike view of the question, and, for the sake of establishing the present very doubtful tranquillity of Mount Lebanon on a permanent, wise, and benevolent footing, to adopt the whole of that combination which the Christian Powers had recommended, as best adapted to all the circumstances of the case, and calculated to unite the authority of the Sultan with the wants and habits of a Christian people, whose attachment to their Sovereign would thenceforth derive additional strength from the concurrent opinion of Europe, and the removal of any just motive for looking to foreign interference.

In reviewing all that passed, I have no doubt that the Porte is sincerely anxious to bring this question of Mount Lebanon to a close. It is, no doubt, for this purpose, that the progressive restitution of the plundered property has been announced to us. The complete withdrawal of the Albanian troops



from Syria, which was also promised by Riza Pasha, is, no doubt, intended to gratify the Allied Powers. The same may be said of the other less important concessions. But the point of permanent importance remains behind; I mean, the appointments of chiefs selected from the Druses and Maronites. This is a point to which the Porte adheres with a degree of obstinacy, not altered by the removal of the Grand Vizier, and only to be explained by her reliance on the intentions of the Allies to abstain from taking any step of a coercive or intimidating character. The Turkish Representatives were not to be shaken even by a very explicit intimation, that little difficulty would be made to any reasonable suggestion advanced by them as a security against the effects apprehended by the proposed appointment. Even the admission of a small military force, under the command of an officer, delegated by the Vizier and stationed at some convenient post between the Druses and the Maronites, would not, perhaps, have been rejected by us, if it had offered the means of reconciling them to our demand; but in spite of every effort and of every expedient on our part, we were surprised to find them prepared to cut the matter short by a positive, though not uncourteous, refusal; nor was it without extreme difficulty that they were, at last, persuaded to suspend their decision, until the pleasure of the Sultan could be taken upon the report of our deliberations.

In this suspended state the question remains at present; and there is only a faint hope of the Porte announcing any change in her decision, when we are invited, according to the promise of the Turkish Ministers, to a fresh interchange of communications with them.

I have endeavoured, however, to provide against the effects of any unfavourable reports transmitted to Syria, by informing Colonel Rose of what has occurred, and recommending him to persist in discouraging the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon from resorting to any aggressive means of redress.

P.S.—The removal of Omar Pasha from the government of the Mountain was again stated by the Turkish Minister as a measure to which the Porte had no objection.

No. 69.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 24.)*

My Lord,

*Buyukderé, September 27, 1842.*

THE Turkish Government, I state it with regret, persists in withholding its assent to the plan of settlement proposed by the Five Allied Cabinets for the future administration of Mount Lebanon. The postponement of a final decision, which was obtained with so much difficulty at the late Conference, has not produced any favourable change. I have made every practicable effort to obtain the result desired by your Lordship; but, whatever may be effected at a later period, no reasonable hope remains, for the present, of removing or overcoming the objections of the Porte.

This morning the paper, of which a copy is herewith inclosed, was communicated to me on the part of Sarim Effendi; a similar communication was subsequently made to the other Representatives of the Four Powers. It announces the deliberate opinion of the Government under the sanction of the Sultan's name, and it may be fairly described as conceding every point but that particular one, which constitutes the principal, and, indeed, the essential feature of our proposals. The removal of the Albanians, the dismissal of Omar Pasha, the restitution of the plundered property, the separation of the Druses from the Christians, and the confirmation of the ancient privileges, as to religion, taxation, and justice, are clearly conceded; but the appointment of a Druse and of a Christian chief over the respective districts of the Mountain continues to meet with unabated opposition.

In reply to the Dragoman of the Porte, who waited upon me with the instruction addressed to him by Sarim Effendi, I observed, after reading it, that, with every sentiment of respect for a decision emanating from the Sultan,



I could not but express my deep concern at the disinclination of the Porte to accept the advice deliberately offered to her, in so friendly a manner, by the Five Great Powers of Europe. I added, that, after communicating upon the subject with my colleagues, I should not fail to submit to Sarim Effendi, the remarks which we might deem it our duty to offer on a question of so much delicacy and interest.

Whatever may be my own impression as to the inutility of any further attempt to dissuade the Turkish Ministers from their present course, without a fresh reference to the respective Cabinets, I shall be careful not to act upon it, without ascertaining that it is equally entertained by the other Representatives. Nor is this the only point which I am anxious to keep in view. The Porte, I conceive, must be discouraged by an expression of our joint opinion from taking any step for the immediate appointment of Turkish Lieutenant-Governors over the Druse and Maronite districts of Mount Lebanon. We are, perhaps, also bound to intimate that we are not warranted to hold out the prospect of any essential change in the terms of advice already given by the Five Powers with such perfect unanimity of sentiment and language. As to any reasonable modification or accessory arrangement calculated to reconcile the Porte to what we are instructed to recommend as indispensable for the permanent tranquillity and good government of Syria, a sufficient door has already been opened by us: and I shall not consent to anything which may have the effect of closing it, and thereby increasing the difficulties which must necessarily attend upon a reconsideration of this complicated question.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

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Inclosure in No. 69.

*Instruction from Sarim Effendi to the Dragoman of the Porte.*

(Traduction.)

27 Septembre, 1842.

DANS la conférence qui eut lieu jeudi 10 Chaban, dans ma maison de campagne, avec Messieurs les Représentans des Cinq Grandes Puissances, relativement à la question du Liban, et à laquelle ont pris part leurs Excellences le Président du Conseil, Halil Pacha, le Grand Amiral, Riza Pacha, et le commissaire de la Porte, Selim Bey, il avait été convenu que les discussions qui ont roulé dans cette conférence, seraient portées à la connaissance de Sa Hautesse, et que cette question serait encore l'objet de nouvelles communications.

Le rapport de cette conférence a été mis sous les yeux de Sa Hautesse, qui, après quelque temps de méditation, a ordonné, conformément à la décision prise au sein de cette conférence, le renvoi de Beirout des troupes Albanaïses en garnison de cette ville.

L'assemblée a été parfaitement d'accord sur la solution à donner à cette question; ce qui seulement a été l'objet de quelque hésitation ce fut le point de savoir, si les lieutenans que le Mouchir de Saïda aurait à nommer pour les mettre à la tête des Druses et des Maronites, doivent être pris parmi eux-mêmes, ou des hommes étrangers à ces nations; hésitation qui n'est, au reste, que l'effet de la divergence qui existe entre les informations recueillies par la Sublime Porte et celles qui sont parvenues à MM. les Représentans des Puissances.

Quels que soient les moyens que l'on veuille employer, pour parvenir à dissiper cette hésitation, et concilier les opinions, la solution de cette question, si importante en elle-même, étant le seul but que l'on se propose d'atteindre, la Sublime Porte se livre à l'espoir, que la ligne de conduite suivie par elle ne manquera pas d'être appréciée.

La Sublime Porte, obligée de croire à la réalité des informations recueillies par ses propres agens, et ne pouvant, en l'absence de preuves convaincantes, se dire avoir été mal renseignée, évite autant qu'il est en elle, de donner

lieu à de nouveaux troubles par une conduite opposée, ce qui ne manquera pas de remettre en émoi les esprits en Europe ; et cette pensée préoccupe tellement son attention, qu'il est impossible de l'exprimer. D'un autre côté, la Sublime Porte se montre constamment disposée à écouter et apprécier les conseils aussi sincères que bienveillans donnés par les Grandes Puissances ses amies et alliées, qui sont si désireuses du bien-être de ses états et de l'indépendance de son autorité ; et ce fait MM. les Représentans eux-mêmes ne peuvent pas ne pas l'avouer.

Dans cette conviction, la Sublime Porte ne saurait jamais s'imaginer que les instructions collectivement présentées en dernier lieu au Ministère Ottoman, eussent été données dans l'intention d'user de contrainte à son égard ; et se croyant fondée dans son opinion qu'elles ont été combinées d'après les informations précédentes, basées sur l'idée de la tranquillité perpétuelle si unanimement désirée, elle s'empresse d'exprimer ci-après les vues qui l'animent dans l'intérêt de ses états.

La Sublime Porte se félicite de voir que le système suivie par elle à l'égard de l'administration du Mont Liban, ait pu être si conforme à la justice et à l'équité ; ce qui le prouve c'est que la population du Liban, composée de six communautés différentes, n'est plus dans l'obligation de payer des impôts immenses auxquels elle était tenue de satisfaire sous l'ancien système.

Ces populations ont cessé d'être l'objet de vexations auxquelles elles étaient autrefois en butte ; et personne ne les inquiète plus dans l'exercice de leurs devoirs religieux, qu'elles accomplissent en toute liberté.

Indépendamment de tout cela, la tranquillité, qui forme l'objet surtout de la sollicitude de Sa Hautesse, s'est rétablie, grâce à Dieu, dans ces provinces ; et comme il est indubitable que cette tranquillité continuera à y régner, et que le Mont Liban placé comme il a été à des époques éloignées, sous la juridiction et la surveillance du Gouverneur de la Province de Saïda, sera administré par ce dernier avec justice et droiture, la Sublime Porte n'hésite pas d'en assurer tous ceux d'entre ses amis qui conservent des doutes à cet égard ; et elle désire par conséquent le maintien de l'ordre des choses actuel dans la Montagne.

La Sublime Porte se propose de destituer Omar Pacha, pour faire cesser tant de propos qui ont circulé sur son compte, et de procéder à la nomination de deux personnes choisies parmi les employés du Gouvernement qui se recommandent par leur capacité et leur droiture, pour les envoyer au Liban en qualité de Kaïmacams, l'un pour les Druses, et l'autre pour les Maronites. Ces deux nations seront invitées à choisir parmi elles deux députés qui resteront à Beyrout auprès du gouverneur de cette ville.

La Sublime Porte se propose également d'engager au même gouverneur à procéder à la restitution de tous les biens enlevés aux Maronites, indépendamment de ceux qui ont été déjà rendus à leurs propriétaires, et dont la valeur s'élève au-delà de la somme de 20,000 bourses.

Telles sont les dispositions qui serviront de base aux instructions que la Sublime Porte a l'intention d'envoyer au gouverneur sus-mentionné.

La Sublime Porte aime à se flatter que MM. les Représentans des Grandes Puissances voudront bien apprécier ces dispositions de sa part, en même tems qu'elle les invite à les transmettre à leurs Cours respectives.

Je vous engage donc, Monsieur, de vous rendre personnellement, auprès de son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique, et lui communiquer les dispositions que la Sublime Porte a l'intention de prendre, conformément à la volonté impériale de Sa Hautesse.

Je vous engage également à lui remettre la traduction Française de cette instruction, et à saisir cette occasion pour lui réitérer les assurances de ma considération très distinguée.

(Translation.)

*September 27, 1842.*

IN the Conference which took place on Thursday, the 10th Chaban, at my country house, with the Representatives of the Five Powers, relative to the question of Lebanon, and at which their Excellencies the President

of the Council, Halil Pasha, the Grand Admiral, Riza Pasha, and the Commissioner of the Porte, Selim Bey, took part, it was agreed that the discussions which occurred in that conference should be brought to the knowledge of His Highness, and that this question should again be the object of fresh communications.

The report of that conference has been submitted to His Highness, who, after some deliberation, has ordered, in conformity with the decision taken at that conference, the withdrawal from Beyrout of the Albanian troops in garrison in that town.

The meeting was perfectly agreed as to the solution to be given to this question ; that which alone was the object of some hesitation was the point, whether the lieutenants whom the Mushir of Saïda should have to name to be put at the head of the Druses and the Maronites, ought to be taken from amongst themselves, or persons strangers to these nations ; an hesitation which is, moreover, only the result of the difference which exists between the information obtained by the Sublime Porte, and that which has reached the Representatives of the Powers.

Whatever may be the means which it may be desired to employ, to remove this hesitation, and to reconcile opinions, the solution of that question, so important in itself, being the only object which it is proposed to attain, the Sublime Porte hopes that the line of conduct followed by her will not fail to be appreciated.

The Sublime Porte, obliged to believe in the truth of the information obtained by her own agents, and not being able, in the absence of convincing proofs, to say that she has been badly informed, avoids as much as possible to give occasion for further troubles by an opposite line of conduct, which will not fail to put in motion the minds of men in Europe ; and this thought occupies her attention so much that it is impossible to express it. On the other hand, the Sublime Porte shows herself constantly disposed to listen to and to appreciate the counsels, as sincere as they are kind, given by the Great Powers, her friends and allies, who are so desirous of the well-being of her dominions and the independence of her authority ; and this fact the Representatives themselves cannot but allow.

In this conviction, the Sublime Porte could never imagine that the instructions collectively presented on a late occasion to the Ottoman Ministry, could have been given with the intention of employing compulsion with respect to her ; and believing that she has grounds for her opinion that they were framed upon the information before referred to, based on the idea of the perpetual tranquillity so unanimously desired, she hastens to express, as follows, the views which animate her in the interest of her dominions.

The Sublime Porte is happy to see that the system followed by her with respect to the Administration of Mount Lebanon, has admitted of being so much in conformity with justice and equity ; the proof whereof is that the people of Lebanon, composed of six different communities, are no longer obliged to pay the immense taxes which they were obliged to make good under the old system.

These people have ceased to be the object of vexations to which they were formerly exposed : and no one any longer disturbs them in the exercise of their religious duties, which they freely perform.

Independently of all that, tranquillity, which especially forms the object of the solicitude of His Highness, is established, thanks to God, in those provinces ; and since it is indubitable that this tranquillity will continue to prevail there, and that Mount Lebanon, placed as it has been from a remote period, under the jurisdiction and superintendence of the Governor of the Province of Saïda, will be ruled by this latter with justice and uprightness, the Sublime Porte does not hesitate to give this assurance to all those among her friends who entertain doubts in this respect ; and she consequently desires the maintenance of the actual state of things in the Mountain.

The Sublime Porte proposes to dismiss Omar Pasha, in order to put an end to all that has been said with respect to him, and to proceed to the nomination of two persons chosen among the servants of the Government who are recommended by their capacity and uprightness, in

order to send them to the Lebanon in the capacity of Kaimakam, one for the Druses, the other for the Maronites. These two nations will be invited to choose among them two deputies who will remain at Beyrout with the Governor of that town.

The Sublime Porte proposes in like manner to direct the same Governor to proceed to the restitution of all the property taken from the Maronites, independently of that which has already been restored to its proprietors, and of which the value amounts to about the sum of 20,000 purses.

Such are the arrangements which will form the ground-work of the instructions which the Sublime Porte intends to send to the Governor above mentioned.

The Sublime Porte flatters herself that the Representatives of the Great Powers will be pleased to appreciate these arrangements which she has made, at the same time that she invites them to transmit them to their respective Courts.

I direct you, therefore, Sir, to proceed in person to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, Ambassador of Her Britannic Majesty, and to communicate to him the arrangements which the Sublime Porte intends to adopt agreeably to the Imperial will of His Highness.

I direct you likewise to deliver to him a French translation of this instruction, and to take this opportunity to repeat to him the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

No. 70.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 24.)*

My Lord,

*Buyukderé, September 30, 1842.*

AT a meeting which took place yesterday at my house, I entered into a full consideration with my colleagues, the Representatives of Austria, Russia, France, and Prussia, of the present very unsatisfactory stage of the Syrian affair. We agreed that nothing remained to be done by us, with any reasonable prospect of success, until the opinion of the Porte, as declared in Sarim Effendi's instruction to his Dragoman, should be brought under the notice of our respective Cabinets. The copy, inclosed herewith, of an instruction addressed by me to M. Pisani for communication to Sarim Effendi, will sufficiently explain to your Lordship the view which we concurred in taking of the question in its present state. It was agreed that each Representative should send in a paper of similar purport.

M. Pisani's report of the Reis Effendi's reply, a copy of which is also inclosed herewith, completes what I have to communicate upon this subject.

I ought, however, to add, that the title of Governor of Beyrout, adopted in Sarim Effendi's instruction, is not meant to designate a separate functionary, but only, under another form, the Pasha of Saida, Superintendent of Mount Lebanon.

We have agreed, in conclusion, to write to the respective Consuls at Beyrout, enjoining them to persevere in contributing, by their conduct and language, to the tranquillity of Mount Lebanon during the interval which must elapse before the final intentions of the Allied Cabinets can be made known to us.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

*Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.*

Monsieur,

*Buyukdéré, le 29 Septembre, 1842.*

IL y a deux jours que le Drogman de la Porte me présenta la copie d'une instruction que son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères lui avait adressée en date de 21 du mois Chaban. Par cette communication Sarim Effendi a bien voulu m'annoncer le résultat des délibérations du Conseil Ottoman, et surtout le jugement qu'a daigné porter Sa Hautesse sur les divers points qui lui ont été soumis à la suite de la dernière conférence relative aux affaires du Mont Liban.

Cette pièce, dont la rédaction toute entière, et la substance même en grande partie, répondent à l'esprit amical qui a dicté l'avis des Cours Alliées, renferme pourtant une opinion d'autant moins satisfaisante qu'elle repousse leurs conseils par rapport aux points essentiels de la question.

La Porte s'engage à faire retirer les troupes Albanaïses de la Syrie, à destituer Omar Pacha, à donner aux Druses et aux Maronites des Gouverneurs séparés; mais elle ne consent pas à ce que ces Gouverneurs soient choisis d'entre les nationaux de chaque communauté.

Conformément au désir de la Porte, je me ferai un devoir de mettre l'instruction de Sarim Effendi sous les yeux de mon Gouvernement, qui ne manquera pas de rendre justice à ses motifs, et de peser toutes ses objections. Je dois avouer néanmoins, avec la franchise d'une véritable amitié, que les opinions énoncées par mes collègues et moi à la conférence, demeurent toujours les mêmes; que j'apprends avec bien des regrets les opinions énoncées par la Porte; et que si je consens à en référer de nouveau à ma Cour, c'est dans l'assurance que la Porte, en attendant une réponse de ma part, suspendra l'exécution de son projet, en tant qu'il soit contraire aux sentimens et aux conseils des Cinq Cours, ses amies.

Vous remettrez une copie de cette instruction à Sarim Effendi, en offrant à son Excellence l'assurance de ma parfaite considération.

(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING.

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Buyukdéré, September 29, 1842.*

TWO days ago the Dragoman of the Porte presented to me the copy of an instruction addressed to him by his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 21st of the month Chaban. By this communication Sarim Effendi has had the goodness to announce to me the result of the deliberations of the Ottoman Council, and especially the decision which his Highness has been pleased to pronounce on the different points which were submitted to him as the result of the last conference relative to the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

This paper, the composition of which entirely, and even the substance in a great degree, correspond with the spirit of friendship by which the advice of the Allied Courts was dictated, contains, however, an opinion which is so much the less satisfactory, as it rejects their advice with respect to the essential points of the question.

The Porte undertakes to withdraw the Albanian troops from Syria, to displace Omar Pasha, to give separate Governors to the Druses and to the Maronites; but she does not consent that these Governors should be chosen from the members of each community.

In conformity with the desire of the Porte I shall make it my duty to place the instruction of the Porte before my Government, who will not

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fail to do justice to its motives, and to weigh all its objections. I must confess, nevertheless, with the frankness of true friendship, that the opinions put forward by my colleagues and by myself at the Conference, continue still the same; that I learn with much regret the opinions expressed by the Porte; and that if I consent to make a fresh reference thereupon to my Court, it is under the assurance that the Porte, while waiting my reply, will suspend the execution of her plan, so far as it is contrary to the sentiments and advice of the Five Powers, her friends.

You will deliver a copy of this instruction to Sarim Effendi, at the same time that you offer to his Excellency the assurance of my perfect consideration.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

*M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Excellence,

*Pera, ce 30 Septembre, 1842.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire savoir que, conformément à vos ordres, j'ai remis à Sarim Effendi copie de l'instruction de Votre Excellence, en date d'hier, sur les affaires du Mont Liban, après l'avoir lue et expliquée en Turc à son Excellence.

Sarim Effendi m'a fait la réponse suivante: "J'ai parfaitement compris cette instruction, qui est une réponse à la communication que j'ai faite dernièrement à MM. les Représentans des Puissances amies. Naturellement, la Sublime Porte n'a rien à faire à présent; et le système actuel au Mont Liban continuera jusqu'à ce que le temps sera venu de se concerter avec MM. les Représentans sur la mise à exécution des mesures qui viennent de leur être communiquées. Voilà ma réponse, que vous transmettez de ma part à son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning."

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,  
(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

*Pera, September 30, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in conformity with your directions, I delivered to Sarim Effendi a copy of your Excellency's instruction of yesterday on the affairs of Mount Lebanon, after having read it and explained it in Turkish to his Excellency.

Sarim Effendi made me the following reply: "I have fully understood this instruction, which is a reply to the communication which I recently made to the Representatives of the friendly Powers. Naturally, the Sublime Porte has nothing at present to do; and the present system in Mount Lebanon will continue until the time shall arrive for concerting with the Representatives as to carrying into effect the measures which have now been communicated to them. This is my answer, which you will convey on my behalf to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning."

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) FREDERICK PISANI.

## No. 71.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 24, 1842.*

I RECEIVED, on the 8th of this month, your Excellency's despatch of the 16th of September, giving an account of what passed in a conference held on the previous day by your Excellency and your colleagues with the Turkish Ministers, relative to the affairs of Syria; and I have since received from your Excellency, a copy of the paper delivered to you by the Dragoman of the Porte, on the 27th of September. As that paper contains the decision of the Porte on the several questions discussed in the Conference of the 15th of September, I do not consider it necessary to advert to your Excellency's despatch, further than to inform you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the manner in which you conducted the discussion with the Turkish Ministers, and endeavoured to prevail upon them to comply with the reasonable wishes of the Allies on the most important point under consideration.

With regard, however, to the paper delivered to your Excellency by the Dragoman of the Porte on the 27th of September, I have to state to your Excellency that the contents of it are, to a certain extent, satisfactory.

Her Majesty's Government accept with pleasure the engagement of the Porte, that the Albanian troops shall be immediately withdrawn from Beyrout, and they trust that this measure will be immediately followed up by the removal of those troops from Syria altogether. Your Excellency will continue to press this latter point on the Porte, in the strongest manner, and you will represent to the Turkish Government, that Her Majesty's Government insist upon it, not only with reference to the view they take of the interests of the Porte, but with reference to the engagements which they contracted in 1840, on the faith of the assurances given to the British Ambassador at Constantinople by the Porte, that the Syrians should not be oppressed.

Her Majesty's Government accept also, with pleasure, the engagement of the Porte, that Omar Pasha shall be immediately dismissed from the office which he holds in Syria; and that orders will be given to the Governor of the Province of Sidon, in whom the supreme direction of the affairs of Mount Lebanon is to be vested, to restore without further delay all the property of which the Maronites were deprived during the late troubles, independently of that portion thereof which has already been given back to the owners.

Thus far, then, Her Majesty's Government accept with pleasure the engagements of the Porte; and they are not disposed to question either the justice or the expediency of vesting in a Turkish authority, the Governor of Sidon, the superintendence of all the districts of Mount Lebanon. They only trust that, in the selection of a person for this important post, the Porte will bear in mind the serious difficulties which must inevitably result from the appointment of any one whose character will not be a sufficient guarantee for the exercise of his functions with justice, rectitude, and moderation. But Her Majesty's Government are constrained to say that they are much disappointed with the arrangement which the Porte proposes to make for the more immediate government of the Christian and Druse populations. The Porte has decided that the immediate Governors of those populations shall be Mahometans. Her Majesty's Government cannot be satisfied with this arrangement. The question has not, as stated by the Porte, turned upon the amount of credit to be given to the different reports received by the Turkish Government on the one hand, and by the Representatives of the Five Powers on the other, as to the state of affairs in Lebanon, and as to the inclinations of the several populations manifested in their addresses, whether feigned or sincere, to the Sultan's throne: but the demand of Her Majesty's Government has rested on the pledge given to the British Ambassador by the Porte, in the year 1840, that the ancient rights and privileges of the Syrians should be respected. Her Majesty's Government, relying upon the sincerity of the Porte, communicated, through its agents, that pledge to the people of



Syria ; and they have therefore become morally responsible for its fulfilment. And as it is one of the ancient rights and privileges of the Syrians of Mount Lebanon that they should be governed directly by rulers selected from among themselves, and not by Mahometan officers, Her Majesty's Government must continue to insist upon the Porte securing those populations in the enjoyment of this most essential privilege. Accordingly, your Excellency is instructed to state distinctly to the Porte, as I have also stated within these few days to the Turkish Ambassador in this country, that no arrangement of the affairs of Syria, which shall not include this indispensable provision, will be accepted by Her Majesty's Government as the fulfilment of the pledge given to them by the Porte, in favour of the Syrians, in the year 1840.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

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No. 72.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 24, 1842.*

I HAVE to request your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain, as nearly as possible, the nature and amount of the claims which the Emir Beshir El-Kassim has upon the Porte, for property plundered in Syria, or for money due to him by the Porte ; and also what proportion of them, if any, has been satisfied. I need scarcely repeat to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are very anxious that all the just claims of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim should be attended to by the Porte ; and that you will, therefore, advocate his interests in this respect on all occasions when the circumstances of the case admit of your so doing.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

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No. 73.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 31, 1842.*

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of the course which you took, in common with your colleagues, on receiving from the Dragoman of the Porte on the 27th ultimo, the answer of the Turkish Government to the representations of the Allied Powers on the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

My despatch of the 24th instant, will enable your Excellency to acquaint the Turkish Ministers with the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government on the decision of the Porte respecting those affairs, as contained in the communication made to your Excellency on the 27th of September.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

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No. 74.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 8.)*

My Lord,

*Buyukderé, October 17, 1842.*

IN the last conference between the Ministers of the Porte and the Representatives of the Five Powers, Sarim Effendi informed us that property to the amount of 20,000 or of 25,000 purses had been restored to the Maronites, after a judicial inquiry, by Mustapha Pasha, and that receipts for that amount of property had been forwarded to him by the Seraskier.

In my correspondence with Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, I stated the substance of this communication, and was greatly surprised to learn from Colonel Rose, that the statement thus solemnly made by Sarim Effendi was utterly destitute of foundation in fact.

I lost no time in applying to Sarim Effendi for an explanation of this astonishing contradiction; and I have the honour to inclose, herewith, a copy of the instruction which I addressed to M. Pisani for that purpose, and also copies of the answers given to him by his Excellency the Effendi on two several occasions.

It does not appear that my colleagues, with some of whom I have communicated upon the subject, have received from their respective Consuls in Syria any information similar to that which I have received from Colonel Rose.

It is but fair, however, to state, that one of the Maronite Agents, whom I saw at a late hour last night, so far corroborates the Consul's assertion as to state, that the receipts taken by Mustapha Pasha are not for property seized by the Druses, but for property abandoned subsequently by the Maronites, and either occupied by the Turkish authorities, or left for the time unoccupied by any one.

I shall avail myself of the earliest opportunity to communicate further with Colonel Rose upon this embarrassing and delicate question; nor shall I fail to ascertain from Sarim Effendi, whether he admits the interpretation of the Maronite Agent.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 74.

*Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.*

(Extract.)

*Buyukderé, October 10, 1842.*

I HAVE to request that you will wait upon Sarim Effendi, and communicate to his Excellency the accompanying extract of a despatch and its inclosure, addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria.

You will observe that Colonel Rose denies positively that any money whatever has been paid or settlement effected with any portion of the Maronites on account of the property taken from them by the Druses. As this assertion is in direct contradiction with the communication made by his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Representatives of the Five Powers, at their last conference with the Ottoman Ministers, I am entitled to expect an explanation from his Excellency, for the instruction of my Government and the regulation of my own conduct.

You will have the goodness to state what precedes, with all due consideration, to Sarim Effendi, and to report to me the exact terms of his Excellency's reply.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 74.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, September 27, 1842.*

IT causes me, I may venture to say, unmingled surprize, that Sarim Effendi should have made to your Excellency and your colleagues the statements which your Excellency does me the honour to convey to me at the close of your despatch. I am pained to state they are devoid of all foundation, for the Christians have not even heard of the examination and judicial settlement of their losses, nor have they even heard of the appropriation of 25,000 purses to their liquidation.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 74.

*M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Excellence,

*Péra, 10 Octobre, 1842.*

J'AI communiqué à Sarim Effendi les instructions de votre Excellence en date d'aujourd'hui, ainsi que l'extrait de dépêche y inclus.

Son Excellence Sarim Effendi, après avoir entendu la lecture des pièces m'a fait la réponse suivante :—

“ Il est certain que j'ai dit dans la conférence à MM. les Représentans des Cinq Puissances, et encore plus que cela, que je leur ai montré une dépêche de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha qui nous marquait que sur les propriétés enlevées par les Druses aux Maronites, il avait déjà recouvré des biens pour la valeur d'environ 20,000 bourses, lesquels, après avoir été juridiquement prouvés avoir appartenu au tel et au tel, ont été restitués aux propriétaires, qui, les ayant pris, ont donné des reçus. J'ai ajouté que son Excellence avait envoyé à la Porte les reçus en original, au nombre de quatre-vingt-quatre, et j'ai même montré ces reçus dans la conférence. M. l'Ambassadeur avouera que, si par impossible, Mustapha Pacha n'a pas écrit la vérité, et nous a envoyé des reçus faux, il aura ainsi trompé, non pas moi seulement, mais les Ministres Ottomans présens à la conférence, et le Sultan lui-même; ce qui est de toute impossibilité de la part d'un personnage qui, durant toute sa carrière, a donné de nombreuses preuves de sa fidélité et d'une droiture rare. Son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning a cru à la communication que j'ai faite; il ne doit pas cesser de croire à la vérité du rapport de Mustapha Pacha, en ajoutant foi aux avis contraires qu'il vient de recevoir. Comme Mustapha Pacha a envoyé les reçus en original à Constantinople pour être enregistrés à la Porte et renvoyés en Syrie, ces reçus seront immédiatement renvoyés à Mustapha Pacha, si j'apprends qu'on ne les lui a pas déjà renvoyés. Sir Stratford Canning n'a qu'à écrire au Colonel Rose de demander à voir les reçus en original entre les mains de Mustapha Pacha.

Ma réponse à cette partie des deux pièces que vous venez de me communiquer, qui est relative au même sujet, est la même que celle que je viens de vous faire. MM. les Représentans n'ont qu'à écrire à leurs Consuls respectifs de demander à voir les reçus en original. Quant aux moyens d'intimidation qu'on représente encore comme ayant été employés par Selim Bey et par d'autres, tout ce que nous savons, c'est que de pareils moyens n'ont jamais été employés; que Selim Bey s'est offert à être jugé et sévèrement puni s'il est convaincu d'avoir employé de pareils moyens pour extorquer des signatures; et que Mustapha Pacha lui-même a demandé à être jugé avec les Consuls.

Telle a été, M. l'Ambassadeur la réponse de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, que je m'empresse de vous transmettre.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,  
(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Pera, October 10, 1842.

I HAVE communicated to Sarim Effendi your Excellency's instructions of this day, as well as the extract of despatch therein inclosed.

His Excellency Sarim Effendi, after having heard the papers read, made the following answer to me:—

“It is true that I said to the Representatives of the Five Powers at the Conference, and more than that, that I showed them a despatch from his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha which informed us, that of the property taken by the Druses from the Maronites, he had already recovered the amount of about 20,000 purses, which, after having been legally proved to have belonged to such and such persons, was restored to the owners, who, after having obtained it, gave receipts. I added, that his Excellency had sent to the Porte the original receipts, eighty-four in number, and I even showed these receipts at the Conference. The Ambassador will allow that, if by an impossibility, Mustapha Pasha has not written the truth, and has sent us false receipts, he has also deceived, not only myself, but the Ottoman Ministers present at the Conference, and the Sultan himself; which would be quite an impossibility on the part of a person, who, throughout his whole career, has given numerous proofs of his fidelity and of uncommon integrity. His Excellency Sir Stratford Canning believed the communication which I made; he cannot cease to believe in the truth of the report of Mustapha Pasha, by putting faith in the advices which he has received to the contrary. As Mustapha Pasha has sent the original receipts to Constantinople to be registered at the Porte and sent back to Syria, those receipts will be immediately sent back to Mustapha Pasha, if I learn that they have not already been sent back to him. Sir Stratford Canning has only to write to Colonel Rose to ask to see the original receipts in the hands of Mustapha Pasha.

“My answer to that part of the two papers which you have just communicated to me, which relates to the same subject, is the same as that which I have just made to you. The Representatives have only to write to their respective Consuls to ask to see the original receipts. As to the means of intimidation, which are still represented as having been employed by Selim Bey and by others, all that we know is, that such means have never been employed; that Selim Bey has offered to be tried and severely punished if he is convicted of having employed such means to extort signatures; and that Mustapha Pasha himself has asked to be tried with the Consuls.”

This was, M. l'Ambassadeur, the answer of his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sublime Porte, which I hasten to transmit to you.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) FRED. PISANI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 74.

*M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

Péra, 13 Octobre, 1842.

SARIM EFFENDI a pris des informations au sujet des propriétés rendues aux Maronites; ces propriétés consistent, dit-il, principalement en terres et en villages; et puis il y a des chevaux, des mulets, des bœufs, différentes petites sommes d'argent, des arbres fruitiers, des maisons, &c.

Parmi les signataires des reçus, il y a Abdullah Chéhab qui a repris le produit d'un village; Emaun Chéhab, un champ; Betros Nahous, un champ; Suliman Hamadi, procureur d'Emir Béchir Chéhab, a pris deux villages pour son commettant.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

*Pera, October 13, 1842.*

SARIM EFFENDI has obtained information on the subject of the property restored to the Maronites; that property consists, he says, principally of lands and villages; and there are also horses, mules, oxen, various small sums of money, fruit-trees, houses, &c.

Among the parties who signed the receipts are Abdallah Shehab, who has recovered the produce of a village; Emaun Shehab, a field; Betros Nahous, a field; Suliman Hamadi, agent for Emir Beshir Shehab, took two villages for his principal.

No. 75.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 19.)*

(Extract.)

*Buyukderé, October 28, 1842.*

I CAN obtain no satisfactory information on the subject of the receipts exhibited by Sarim Effendi, as evidence of property restored to the amount of 20,000 or 25,000 purses.

No. 76.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 6.)*

(Extract.)

*Buyukderé, November 17, 1842.*

REFERRING to your Lordship's despatches concerning the affairs of Syria, I have to state that I waited on Sarim Effendi yesterday for the express purpose of bringing the whole question once more under his immediate and serious consideration.

I communicated, in substance, to his Excellency, the principal parts of your Lordship's instruction of October 24, apprizing him of the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt the decision of the Porte as to every point in discussion, excepting that which more particularly relates to the internal administration of Mount Lebanon, and declaring that the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon that one remaining point was still unshaken, and their expectation of its being finally conceded by the Sultan unabated.

I found, in the outset, no difference in the language of Sarim Effendi from that which had been used on former occasions by himself and his colleagues in office. He repeated, that the Turkish Cabinet, which best knew its own interests, could not adopt the advice of the European Powers without prejudice to those interests; that there was no question of its refusing their proposal, but of simply adhering to its own well-founded view of the subject. In short, it was evident, that unless the Porte saw reason to apprehend the displeasure of the Allied Powers, there was no better prospect than before, of her consenting to assign the local administration of Mount Lebanon to a Druse and a Christian Emir.

To this consideration, therefore, I particularly addressed myself, and avoiding any expressions which might be taken as menacing or unfriendly, I made a full communication to Sarim Effendi of the closing paragraph of your Lordship's instruction, urging upon him the motives and the determination so unequivocally declared therein, and expressing my unfeigned astonishment at the forgetfulness which the Porte had displayed of all that Her Majesty's friendship and Her Majesty's arms had effected in Syria, for the advantage of the Sultan and his Empire.

I had the satisfaction to find that my frank and warm expostulation was not entirely thrown away upon Sarim Effendi. He said that the Porte was

deeply sensible of the services rendered to her by Great Britain; that he was desirous to know the real sentiments and wishes of the British Government; that he was not empowered to come to any present conclusion with me upon the subject under discussion, but that his duty was confined for the moment to collecting the opinions of the several Cabinets, and that they would be taken into consideration after the return of Mustapha Pasha, who had arrived at Rhodes, and was expected from day to day at Constantinople.

Under these circumstances, I did not think it advisable to provoke a lengthened or angry discussion. It was better, I thought, to rest upon the declaration which I had already made, affirming, however, at the same time, that the opinions of the Five Cabinets were uniform and invariable upon the subject of the Syrian settlement, and appealing to the recent occurrences in Mount Lebanon for proofs of the soundness of their views with respect to the tranquillity of that district. Instead of tranquillity, I said, a fresh insurrection had broken out; the promised restitution of property had turned out to be a mere illusion; and, so far from the existing state of things having been maintained, according to the assurances given by the Porte, an attempt to disarm the Druses, and other confiscations of their property, and the seizure of their Chiefs and strong places, had produced the effect of uniting all parties in resistance to the authority of the Sultan. Sarim Effendi could only reply, that the Porte had not yet received accounts of the military incidents, to which I referred; that, in spite of appearances, an effectual restitution of property had taken place to a very considerable amount; and that the coercive measures now complained of had been adopted before our last conference.

Such, my Lord, are the principal features of my interview with Sarim Effendi on the subject of Syria. I am just informed that Mustapha Pasha is arrived at Constantinople. I shall take an early opportunity of communicating with him, and proposing to my colleagues another concerted step to establish the uniformity of our instructions, and to overcome whatever may remain of the Porte's aversion to our proposals.

Meanwhile, it is evident that the actual state of affairs in Syria affords the strongest motives for bringing the whole question to a speedy and definitive settlement. I am not, however, in possession of the most recent advices, a gentleman charged with Colonel Rose's despatches having reached the Dardanelles, but, from some unexplained cause, having neither brought or sent them on to Constantinople. I learn, however, from one of the Maronite Patriarch's agents, that a convention has really been made between the Druse and Christian Emirs, founded upon the restitution of property by the former, and the common intention of excluding the Turkish Authorities from the Mountain.

I need not assure your Lordship that I am fully alive to the importance of continuing to dissuade the Chiefs of Mount Lebanon from resorting to hostilities; and, under this impression, I shall avail myself of the steam-packet which sails for Beyrout the day after to-morrow, to inform Colonel Rose of the improving prospect here, and, by his means and those of his colleagues, to prevail upon the leaders of each party to rest their cause exclusively upon the exertions and sincerity of the Allies.

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No. 77

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 19, 1842.*

IT appears from Colonel Rose's late despatches, that Omar Pasha has confiscated the whole of the property of Sheik Naaman Djinblat, and of his brothers Sheik Said and Sheik Ishmael. Her Majesty's Government are not sufficiently acquainted with the grounds on which Omar Pasha has acted, to be able to form any decided opinion whether in the case of Sheiks Naaman and Said so harsh a measure was necessary. They may or may not have committed offences which called for such a degree of punishment; and, in either case, Her Majesty's Government might hesitate to interfere

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in their behalf, lest by so doing they should lay themselves open to the imputation of attempting to control the internal administration of Turkey. But the case is different with regard to Sheik Ishmael, whose youth and residence in England preclude the possibility of his having committed any crimes against the authority of the Sultan, which should justly lead to the confiscation of his property. Your Excellency will therefore have the goodness to call the attention of the Turkish Government to the manifest injustice of inflicting upon Sheik Ishmael the punishment to which his brothers have been subject.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 78.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received, December 22.)*

My Lord,

*Buyukderé, November 26, 1842.*

THE latest advices from Syria, which only come down to the end of October, have not entirely confirmed the intelligence which I had previously derived from other sources. It appears that although the Druses had attacked and repulsed with loss a small body of Turkish infantry, not far from Tripoli, and that others of that nation, in concert with some Greek Christians, had attacked with equal success a yet smaller body of the same troops, the Seraskier had acted with so much unusual mildness as to allay in some manner the growing excitement, and to afford no immediate necessity for its further display. It also appears, that although the apprehension of a common danger had occasioned some friendly communications between the Druse and Christian Chiefs, this return of good feeling between them had not ripened into a complete and formal agreement, nor was it more than conjectured that a general insurrection might eventually break out in the Mountain. Enough, however, remains of suspicion and apprehension as to the probable consequences of misrule on the one side, and of despair on the other, to give a deep interest to the course which is likely to be pursued by the Turkish Government, now that the Seraskier is returned to Constantinople, and that the expected instructions have been received by the Representatives of the Five Powers.

I need not assure your Lordship of my own anxiety to bring the long-pending question of Syria to an immediate as well as a satisfactory conclusion; and I am happy to add, that my colleagues, acting under instructions similar to mine, are unanimous in directing their efforts to the same object.

In several ways not one of us have omitted to inform the Turkish Ministry of the invariable opinion entertained by our respective Cabinets in favour of the re-establishment of a national administration in Mount Lebanon. Your Lordship is already made acquainted with the substance and the result of my oral communications to Sarim Effendi upon that subject. It remains for me to state that, in a meeting held at my house on the 23rd instant, it was agreed that a conference, similar to that of September the 15th, should be proposed to the Porte; not, indeed, with the view of entering into a fresh discussion, but for the purpose of declaring in the most impressive manner that decision of the Five Cabinets, which we have already in confidence intimated to Sarim Effendi. Such a demonstration of perfect unanimity and perseverance in the same opinion was more particularly recommended to our adoption, in consequence of our discovering, on mutual expiation, that there was reason to suspect the Turkish Ministers of seeking to divide us.

For the conference thus agreed upon I have applied officially, at the request of my colleagues, to Sarim Effendi, and, judging from his Excellency's reply, no objection will be made to our proposal, though some few days may elapse before the time of meeting is actually appointed. It is our present intention to leave with the Turkish Ministers a short but decided statement of our joint opinion, together with the principal grounds upon which it rests. We agree in the conviction that such a form of proceeding affords the best chance of success; but I have declined the proposed honour of presenting a single statement in the name of all; conceiving that our unanimity being



clearly established, a separate expression of our opinions will be most consistent with the principles upon which we have hitherto acted in the affairs of Syria.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 79.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 22.)*

(Extract.)

*Buyukderé, November 26, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 19th instant to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria.

In the present very uncertain state of affairs both there and here, I cannot recommend any other course than that which I have pointed out to Colonel Rose. It appears to me that the greatest possible service to be rendered to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, at the present juncture, is to obtain an early settlement of its affairs at the Porte. To this permanent object the exertions of my colleagues and myself are now directed with an improved prospect of success. In the event of a fresh disappointment, I cannot conceal from myself that it will be desirable to consider the embarrassment to which the Consuls at Beyrout are exposed, and to agree as to some joint line of conduct which may be suited to the occasion, and calculated to place them more in harmony with the altered aspect of affairs.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 79.

*Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Buyukderé, November 18, 1842.*

I LAMENT, although I am by no means surprized to hear, that an insurrectionary agreement has been concluded between a number of the Druses and Christian Emirs of Mount Lebanon, with the view of opposing an active resistance to the troops and authority of the Sultan.

What I have learnt in part from you, has been confirmed to me with additional circumstances by other correspondents, as well as by the communications of some of my colleagues here, and also of the agent of the Maronite Patriarch.

Your latest despatches have not reached me; but I am informed that Mr. Bennet, to whom you had consigned them, arrived several days ago at the Dardanelles.

The Seraskier arrived at Constantinople yesterday, and brought despatches from M. Basili to the Russian Envoy, but as you wrote by Mr. Bennet, I presume that you had nothing to forward to me by his Excellency.

As it appears that the spirit of active resistance now manifested by many of the Druse and Maronite chiefs is, in part, attributable to their despair of obtaining redress by means of our negotiations here, I am anxious to inform you, with the least practicable delay, that the instructions recently received, as well by myself as by my several colleagues, are such as to afford strong reason to hope that we shall succeed, before long, in overcoming the obstinacy of the Turkish Government, and obtaining, for the inhabitants of the Mountain, that form of local administration to which they are so habitually attached.

I trust that the knowledge of this circumstance, and of the hope which I found upon it, may have a considerable effect in tranquillizing the chiefs, and by their means the population, of Mount Lebanon; and a discreet and con-

fidential communication to that effect from you, in concert with your colleagues, or even by yourself, to the leading powers among them, can hardly fail of promoting a recurrence to that pacific course of conduct which you have so often and so zealously inculcated.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

## No. 80.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 22.)*

My Lord,

*Buyukderé, November 28, 1842.*

REFERRING to your Lordship's instruction of October 24, I may conscientiously affirm, that I have made every reasonable exertion to obtain an equitable settlement of the Emir El-Kassim's claims. On several and frequent occasions, I have applied to Sarim Effendi for the restitution of his property, for the payment of his salary, for increase of his temporary allowance, for a better house, and for the transfer of his cause from Beyrout to Constantinople. In some cases my application has been attended with success, in others, it has only produced an illusive promise. My last application on his behalf, was to have the order for inquiry into his claim and restoring his property, executed here. The answer of Sarim Effendi was, that my demand was in opposition to a decree of the Mufti, and that the Sultan's firman must take its course at Beyrout.

His claims are said to be exaggerated; and the charge is probably not destitute of truth.

In consequence of your Lordship's instruction, I have again applied to Sarim Effendi, and I have sent to El-Kassim himself for a statement of his claims and of the amount, if any, paid on account of them.

As soon as I obtain his answer, and a more distinct one from Sarim Effendi, I will again address your Lordship upon the subject.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

## No. 81.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, January 6, 1843.*

THE Turkish Ambassador in this country has communicated to me the substance of the note addressed to your Excellency by the Reis Effendi, on the 7th of December, announcing the acquiescence of the Porte in the wishes of the Allied Cabinets, respecting the future government of Syria; and I conclude that I shall receive, in a few days, your Excellency's despatches through Malta, giving an account of what may have taken place previously to the consent of the Porte being thus signified to you. Meanwhile, I have only to say that Her Majesty's Government have received this intelligence with great satisfaction.

## No. 82.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

(Extract.)

*Buyukderé, December 7, 1842.*

I HAVE much satisfaction in stating to your Lordship that, in compliance with the advice of the Allied Powers and the urgent solicitations of their respective representatives, the Turkish Government has at length

announced its intention of restoring Mount Lebanon to the benefit of a local native administration.

The accompanying copy of an official note, which I have this moment received from Sarim Effendi, will inform your Lordship of the manner in which the Porte has expressed its decision.

As the steam-packet destined for Malta is on the eve of departure, I have not time to make any observation upon its contents, which, in point of opinion, and in some respects of assertion also, are greatly at variance with our latest advices from Syria. Still less is it in my power to have any explanations upon the subject, either with the Turkish Minister or with my colleagues.

Your Lordship will perceive that the members of the Shehab family are expressly excluded from the number of those amongst whom the Kaimakams of Assaad Pasha, or the local Druse and Christian Governors, are to be selected.

Considering the very critical state of affairs in Mount Lebanon, and the increasing danger which still threatens the tranquillity of that district, and the Sultan's authority there, I deem it of the highest importance to transmit the intelligence of the Porte's concession, without a moment's delay, to Colonel Rose, and I have only to regret that, in order to effect this object, I am compelled to send off my despatches without previously communicating with the other Representatives.

As a regular opportunity of communicating with Beyrout, by steam, will occur in ten days, any inconvenience attached to so brief and hurried a notice, as that to which I am now limited will not be of long duration.

Sarim Effendi's note is founded upon the application which, at the request of my colleagues, I had made to him for a conference, in their name as well as my own.

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Inclosure in No. 82.

*Sarim Effendi to Sir Stratford Canning.*

*Sublime Porte,*

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, *Le 4 Zilkadé, 1258, d'H. (7 Décembre, 1842.)*

J'AI lu avec attention la traduction de l'instruction donnée en date du 23 Novembre à M. Pisani, premier interprète de l'Ambassade Britannique, et dont la copie m'a été remise par celui-ci.

Votre Excellence m'exprime dans cette instruction le désir d'avoir une conférence avec moi, conjointement avec Messieurs ses collègues, à l'effet de me faire connaître, dans toute leur étendue, les dispositions des Grandes Puissances à l'égard de la question du Liban.

Désireux moi-même d'avoir une entrevue avec vous et de vous faire savoir, aussi promptement que possible, mon intention à ce sujet, je me suis empressé de donner communication au Ministère de Sa Hautesse, des vues manifestées par les Grandes Puissances, à l'égard de la question précitée, et dont j'ai pris connaissance par les explications et les observations qui m'ont été faites dans les conférences que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir précédemment avec votre Excellence et Messieurs le Baron de Bourqueney et de Kletzl, ainsi que par la teneur des notes que j'ai reçues à ce sujet de la part de son Excellence M. de Bouténeff et M. Wagner.

Dans un Conseil Ministériel, auquel a assisté le Seraskir Pacha, cette question ayant été débattue, celui-ci s'est constamment tenu renfermé dans les limites des communications et des observations que jusqu'à présent il n'avait cessé de présenter à la Sublime Porte.

Mustapha Pacha s'est déclaré être pleinement convaincu, que la mesure de nomination par le Mouchir de Saïda de deux Kaïmakams, l'un pour les Druses et l'autre pour les Maronites, précédemment arrêtée pour assurer la tranquillité si unanimement désirée de la Montagne, ne pourrait atteindre ce but, que lorsque ces Kaïmakams seraient pris parmi les étrangers ; en même temps qu'il a assuré d'une manière formelle et positive, que cette tranquillité ne

pourrait être obtenue dans le cas où l'on voudrait, au contraire, s'arrêter au parti de prendre les dits Kaïmakams parmi les Druses et les Maronites eux-mêmes.

Le Ministère Ottoman éprouve le plus vif regret de voir que ce point de cette question ait donné lieu à tant de discussions et de pourparlers depuis un an, et que, malgré la bonne administration qu'il est parvenue à rétablir dans la Montagne, et les preuves convaincantes qu'il est à même de produire à l'appui de son assertion, les Hautes Puissances ses amies et alliées n'aient jamais changé de vues à cet égard.

La Sublime Porte, mue néanmoins par les sentimens de respect dont elle ne cesse pas un seul instant d'être animée à l'égard des Cinq Grandes Puissances, ses plus chères amies et alliées, a préféré, pour arriver à la solution d'une question si délicate, et qui est en même tems une de ses affaires intérieures, se conformer à leurs vœux, plutôt que d'y opposer du refus.

Il est évident, toutefois, que la vue de la Sublime Porte et celle des Grandes Puissances, ne tendant l'une et l'autre qu'à un même objet,—le rétablissement du bon ordre dans la Montagne,—celui des systèmes proposés par les deux parties qui eût été adopté, n'aurait dû être considéré, en premier lieu, que comme un essai.

Si ce résultat peut être obtenu à l'aide de ce système, le vœu de la Sublime Porte en sera accompli, et elle ne pourra qu'en être reconnaissante; mais si, comme elle a lieu de le craindre, d'après les informations successivement recueillies jusqu'ici, la tranquillité ne pouvait être rétablie en Syrie, dans ce cas-là, la justesse des objections faites jusqu'à présent par la Sublime Porte serait évidemment reconnue, et le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse se trouverait, de l'aveu de tout le monde, avoir été dans son droit.

En conséquence, la Sublime Porte, dans son désir de se conformer aux conseils amicaux qui lui sont donnés par ses amis, a pris la résolution d'envoyer à Essaad Pacha, l'ordre de procéder, quant à l'administration des différentes classes de sujets qui habitent le Mont Liban placé sous sa juridiction, au choix et à la nomination de deux Kaïmakams, l'un pour les Druses et l'autre pour les Maronites, pris parmi les indigènes autres que ceux appartenant à la famille Chéhab, conformément à la mesure déjà acceptée par les Grandes Puissances; et de l'engager en même tems à consacrer tous ses soins, au maintien de la tranquillité en Syrie.

Cette résolution de la part du Ministère Ottoman, ayant aussi obtenu la sanction Impériale de Sa Hautesse, je crois de mon devoir d'annoncer à votre Excellence que cette question a reçu sa solution sans avoir recours à de nouvelles conférences.

En me félicitant d'être l'organe des sentimens d'amitié et de respect dont Sa Hautesse mon Auguste Maître et Souverain vient de donner, en cette occasion, une nouvelle preuve, à l'égard des Cinq Grandes Puissances, je vous prie, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, de recevoir les assurances de ma considération très distinguée.

*Le Ministre des Aff. es Etrangères,*  
(Signé) SARIM.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

*Sublime Porte,*  
4 Zilkadi, 1258, (December 7, 1842.)

I HAVE read, with attention, the translation of the instruction given on the 23rd of November to M. Pisani, first interpreter of the British Embassy, and of which a copy was delivered to me by him.

Your Excellency expresses to me, in this instruction, your desire to have a conference with me, conjointly with your colleagues, in order to make me understand, in their full extent, the wishes of the Great Powers with reference to the question of Mount Lebanon.

Being myself desirous of an interview with you, and of letting you know as early as possible what my intention was on this subject, I hastened to communicate to the Government of His Highness, the views entertained by the Great Powers on the question above stated, views of

which I had become aware by means of the explanations and observations which were made to me in the conferences which I had previously had the honour to have with your Excellency, the Baron de Bourqueney and M. de Kletzl, as well as from the tenor of the notes upon this subject which I received from his Excellency M. de Boutevill and M. Wagner.

This question having been debated in a ministerial council, at which the Seraskier Pasha was present, he still persisted in the communications and observations, which, up to the present time, he had not ceased to offer to the Sublime Porte.

Mustapha Pasha declared himself fully convinced, that the plan of the nomination by the Mushir of Saida of two kaimakams, one for the Druses and the other for the Maronites, which had previously been determined upon with the hope of assuring the tranquillity of the Mountain, which is so unanimously desired, could not effect that object, unless these kaimakams were chosen from amongst strangers; at the same time that he asserted, in a formal and positive manner, that that tranquillity could not be attained if, on the contrary, it was decided to select the said kaimakams from amongst the Druses and Maronites.

The Turkish Ministry regret deeply to observe that this point of the question has given rise during the last year to so many discussions and arguments, and that, notwithstanding the good government which it has succeeded in re-establishing in the Mountain, and the convincing proofs of its assertion which it has it in its power to produce, the High Powers, its friends and allies, have never changed their opinions in this respect.

The Sublime Porte, however, actuated by those sentiments of respect which she never ceases for a moment to entertain towards the Five Great Powers, her dearest friends and allies, has, in order to arrive at a solution of a question so delicate, and which at the same time is one of her own internal affairs, preferred to conform to their wishes, rather than to meet those wishes with a refusal.

It is however evident, that the views of the Sublime Porte and those of the Great Powers, having both the same object,—the re-establishment of order in the Mountain,—whichever of the systems proposed by the two parties was adopted, it could be considered, at first, only as an experiment.

If this result can be obtained by this system, the wishes of the Sublime Porte will be accomplished, and she can only be grateful for it; but if, as she has reason to fear from the information continually received up to this time, tranquillity should not be restored in Syria, in that case the justice of the objections hitherto raised by the Porte must plainly be acknowledged, and the Government of His Highness would, by common consent, have been in the right.

Accordingly, the Sublime Porte, actuated by a desire to conform to the friendly counsels which have been given to her by her friends, has resolved to send to Assaad Pasha instructions to proceed,—as regards the government of the different classes of subjects inhabiting Mount Lebanon, and placed under his jurisdiction,—to the choice and nomination of two kaimakams, one for the Druses and the other for the Maronites, chosen from amongst those of the natives who do not belong to the Shehab family, according to the plan already acquiesced in by the Great Powers, and to call upon him at the same time to use his utmost endeavours to preserve tranquillity in Syria.

This resolution on the part of the Turkish Ministry having also received the imperial sanction of His Highness, I consider it my duty to announce to your Excellency that this question has been arranged without any necessity for further conferences.

Whilst congratulating myself on being the channel of the sentiments of friendship and respect of which His Highness, my august Master and Sovereign, has, on this occasion given a fresh proof towards the Allied Powers, I beg, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, that you will receive the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

*The Minister of Foreign Affairs,*  
(Signed) SARIM.

No. 83.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Buyukderé, December 17, 1842.*

I HAVE already informed you that the Syrian Question is settled in so far as it depends upon the Porte's assent to the propositions contained in your Lordship's instructions.

I have now the satisfaction to add, that my despatch, announcing this important intelligence to Lieutenant-Colonel Rose, went on from Smyrna without an hour's delay, in Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Devastation." and there is every reason to presume that it reached Beyrout on the morning of the 12th instant.

The advices which I have received from Syria, of fresh intrigues, of fresh conflicts, and of fresh acts of violence and cruelty in the Mountain to so late a date as the 9th instant, satisfy me that I did not err in hastening to apprise Colonel Rose of the success which had finally crowned our exertions here. Most earnestly do I hope that the intelligence so long expected, may have the effect of restoring tranquillity. Judging from Colonel Rose's account of the good, though momentary, effect produced by my preceding communication of the course to be pursued under your Lordship's more recent instructions, I venture to entertain that hope with some degree of confidence. The policy and personal disposition of Assaad Pasha appear to be more conciliatory than those of his predecessor, the Seraskier; and the influence of Her Majesty's Consul-General and his colleagues may be reasonably expected to derive strength from the concession of the Porte, as well towards the Pasha as towards the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon.

The employment of Albanian troops in the heart of the Mountain, though in direct violation of the Porte's engagement, and accompanied with the usual horrors, may find some degree of palliation in the extremities to which the Turkish authority was reduced, and in the failure of all attempts to conciliate the Druses then actually in arms.

I return to our proceedings here. Inclosed with this despatch are copies of my reply to Sarim Effendi's letter, and of two instructions which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, the second in concert with my colleagues in the Syrian Question. We held a meeting together some days ago at my house; and, after communicating our several impressions on the subject, decided upon writing to the Turkish Minister, and also to the Consuls at Beyrout in the sense of what I have expressed in the accompanying papers. It is particularly gratifying to state that the utmost harmony prevailed in the expression of our respective sentiments, and that the principles of unanimity and uniformity were admitted by all without exception to be the true basis of our action and of our strength.

The only shade of difference worthy of notice or of recollection, was a desire expressed by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to mark in rather pointed terms our conditional acquiescence in the exclusion of the Shehab family, and the absence of any participation on our part in that decision. Monsieur Kletzl's acquaintance with the Turkish language enabled him to allege that the passage in Sarim Effendi's letter relating to that point, intimated more strongly than in the translation, that we had assented to the exclusion of the Shehabs. However that may be, I confess that, for one, I was governed by what is due to the main object of our oft-repeated and long-protracted efforts in favour of Mount Lebanon and the mass of its inhabitants. We all agreed that our instructions did not admit of our opening a fresh discussion with the Porte on behalf of any single family or individual, and that we should weaken the chances of re-establishing tranquillity in Syria if we held out to the excluded family and its partizans the slightest ground or hope that its restoration to power would still become an object of interest to our respective Governments. This view of the matter prevailed to such a degree, that when I finally suggested, as a middle term, that while we kept silence as to the Shehabs in our answer to Sarim Effendi, we should make a separate and verbal disclaimer to his Excellency of our participation in what concerned that

family, the French and Russian Representatives agreed in thinking that even so quiet and confidential an intimation as this would in all probability transpire, and occasion the very mischief which we were all desirous to avoid.

Your Lordship will observe that in my own reply to Sarim Effendi's letter, I have endeavoured, though with very imperfect success, to reconcile the silence which is requisite to avoid that danger, with the eventual disappointment of our present hopes, by recording the actual disturbed state of Mount Lebanon, as a point of departure for the experiment, as Sarim Effendi describes it, of a recurrence to the old principles of government in that district; and intimating that we are neither blind to the source of the present disorders, nor inclined to be passive spectators of any insidious attempt to render the measure now adopted practically abortive.

I trust that the recapitulation in one official document of the various promises successively made by the Porte in favour of Syria, at the requisition of the Allied Powers, either with or without the participation of France, may prove conducive to the one grand object of realizing, to the practical advantage of its inhabitants, those benevolent views which actuate the principal Powers of Christendom in their joint dealings with this Empire.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

*Sir Stratford Canning to Sarim Effendi.*

Monsieur le Ministre,

*Buyukderé, 15 Decembre, 1842.*

LA conférence que M. Pisani vous avait demandée, tant de ma part que de celle des Représentans d'Autriche, de France, de Prusse, et de Russie, devenait en effet sans objet dès que votre Excellence était à même de m'informer que la Sublime Porte avait adopté une résolution conforme aux vœux des Puissances ses amies.

La lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 7 courant, m'annonce cet heureux résultat de nos communications précédentes; et je me félicite d'être l'organe de transmettre à ma Cour un aussi éclatant témoignage de la bienveillance qui préside dans les pensées de Sa Hautesse. Mon Gouvernement apprendra avec plaisir que la Porte, en prenant la décision de placer le Mont Liban sous l'administration d'un Chef Chrétien pour les Maronites, et d'un Chef Druse pour les Druses, a voulu surtout manifester sa confiance dans l'amitié des Cinq Cours, et sa déférence à leur opinion. Entourée de leurs sympathies, et forte de leurs conseils, elle s'acquiert de nouveaux moyens d'affermir le repos, et avancer les intérêts de son empire.

Tout sentiment de regret qui pourrait se mêler à celui de leur satisfaction, à cause de certains doutes que la Porte semble avoir conçus pour l'avenir, s'efface devant la conviction que le succès, de même que l'exécution, de la mesure dépendra principalement de la Porte elle-même. Les derniers incidens de la Syrie ne sont pas de nature à démentir la nécessité d'un tel remède. Ils ne justifient que trop la prévision des Cours Alliées; et si par considération pour ceux qui ont exercé l'autorité souveraine dans les lieux, je m'abstiens de toute remarque sur la cause de ces malheurs, je ne saurais m'aveugler sur l'existence et la gravité des faits.

J'aime à croire que l'avenir offre quelque chose de plus rassurant. La décision adoptée par la Porte doit venir à l'appui de plusieurs mesures déjà annoncées par l'ordre de votre Excellence. Ce sont, la démission d'Omar Pacha, l'exclusion des troupes Albanaïses de la Syrie, et la restitution des propriétés; à une époque antérieure, le libre exercice des cultes, l'allègement des impôts, et, en général, la confirmation des anciens privilèges se trouvaient consacrés par les assurances de la Porte.

L'ensemble de ces mesures sera envisagé par mon Gouvernement, je n'en doute pas, comme un nouveau motif de cordialité entre les deux Cours, comme un droit de plus acquis par la Sublime Porte à la soumission et à la reconnaissance du peuple objet de leur adoption. Que les soins et les qualités du Vizir chargé de surveiller la province répondent aux intentions bienveillantes

S



du Sultan, que le choix des gouverneurs appelés du sein des deux nations pour administrer les affaires du Mont Liban s'accorde avec les besoins du pays, et les Puissances amies de Sa Hautesse n'auront rien à regretter et rien à désirer.

Je profite, &c.,  
(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

*Buyukderé, December 15, 1842.*

THE conference which M. Pisani had requested of you, both for me and for the Representatives of Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, became in fact without an object when your Excellency was in a position to acquaint me that the Sublime Porte had come to a resolution in conformity with the wishes of the Powers, her Allies.

The letter which you did me the honour to address to me on the 7th instant, announced this happy result of our previous communications, and I congratulate myself on being the channel through which so decided a proof of the friendship which influences the mind of His Highness, is conveyed to my Court. My Government will learn with pleasure that the Porte, in determining to place Mount Lebanon under the rule of a Christian Chief for the Maronites, and a Druse Chief for the Druses, has been especially desirous of showing her confidence in the friendship of the Five Courts, and her deference for their opinion. Surrounded by their sympathies, and strong in their counsels, she acquires to herself new means for increasing the repose, and advancing the interests of her empire.

Every sentiment of regret which could mingle with their satisfaction, on account of certain doubts which the Porte would seem to entertain as regards the future, disappears before the persuasion that the success, as well as the execution of this measure depends principally upon the Porte herself. The last events in Syria are not of a nature to disprove the necessity which exists for such a remedy. They only afford too strong a justification of the anticipations of the Allied Courts; and if, out of consideration for those who have exercised the sovereign authority on the spot, I abstain from any remark as to the cause of these misfortunes, I cannot conceal from myself the existence and importance of the circumstances.

I flatter myself that the future opens a more encouraging prospect. The decision adopted by the Porte, will come in support of several measures already announced by order of your Excellency. These are, the dismissal of Omar Pasha; the exclusion from Syria of the Albanian troops; and the restitution of property: at an earlier period freedom of religious worship, decrease in taxation, and, generally, the confirmation of ancient privileges, had been secured by the assurances of the Porte.

The whole of these measures will, I doubt not, be regarded by my Government as a new motive for cordiality between the two Courts, and as a further right acquired by the Sublime Porte to the submission and gratitude of the people on whose account they have been adopted. Let the endeavours and disposition of the Vizier charged with the Government of this province, only correspond to the benevolent intentions of the Sultan, let the selection of the Governors chosen from the two nations to administer the affairs of the Lebanon, only be in accordance with the wants of the country, and the Powers friendly to His Highness will have nothing left for them to regret, and nothing left for them to desire.

I avail myself, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

*Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Constantinople, December 7, 1842.*

CONSIDERING the disturbed and critical state of affairs in Syria at the date of your last despatches to me, I think it my duty to apprize you, without the loss of a single moment, that the Ottoman Ministers, acting under the express commands of the Sultan, have at length conceded the remaining point of difference between them and the Representatives of the Five Allied Powers respecting the government of Mount Lebanon.

The Porte's decision has been communicated to me this morning by a note from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Of this important document I send you a copy herewith for your perusal and confidential information, and also for that of your colleagues the Consular Representatives of the other four Christian Powers at Beyrout, in the event of their not having received a similar communication from their respective Ministers.

You will easily perceive that, although it is highly desirable for the main satisfactory point of intelligence regarding the local administration of the Mountain to be used with a view to the maintenance of whatever degree of tranquillity may still subsist there, the tenor and character of Sarim Effendi's note, as a whole, are not such as to make it a fit object of public, or even of more than limited and guarded communication.

The immediate departure of the steam-packet, which enables me to communicate with Sir James Stirling at Smyrna, precludes me at the same time from either obtaining any further explanation of the Porte's decision, or even entering into any consideration of the manner or terms in which it has been announced.

I propose to take the earliest opportunity of addressing you more at length upon this subject, and, in the mean time, I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches and letters of the 24th instant.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 83.

*Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Constantinople, December 14, 1842.*

IN writing to you on the 7th instant, I promised a further and more deliberate communication on the subject of the very important document which I then transmitted to you in confidence. The approaching departure of the Austrian steam-packet enables me to redeem my pledge without much delay; and I have now the satisfaction to inform you that my colleagues agree with me in regarding the measure announced in Sarim Effendi's letter, as a completion of the Porte's assent to our proposals respecting Syria. We have resolved to accept it in that sense on behalf of our several Courts, and our only remaining anxiety is to secure its prompt execution in the manner best calculated to restore the tranquillity of Syria, and to promote the welfare of its inhabitants. Guided by your habitual discretion and local experience, you will no doubt be able to contribute to the attainment of these objects, without exciting the jealousy of the Turkish authorities, or diverting from their Sovereign those sentiments of confidence and gratitude which are now so emphatically due to him from his subjects of Mount Lebanon.

You are by this time already in possession of the letter addressed to me by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs. A letter expressed in terms almost identical was addressed by his Excellency to each of my four colleagues. I now transmit to you herewith a copy of my answer to Sarim

Effendi. Though differing in terms, it is similar in purport to the answer sent in respectively by them; and I despair of being able to give you a clearer idea of our united views, as founded upon our common instructions, than by referring you to that correspondence.

There is one point, however, to which I am desirous of calling your more particular attention. The Porte, you will observe, has expressly excluded the Shehab family from the number of those amongst whom a governor of the Maronite population is to be selected. Without entering into the motives of this exception, its justice, or its wisdom, I wish you distinctly to understand that I have decided, in concert with my colleagues, upon the expediency of raising no question, either here or in Syria, upon the subject. Whatever may be the merits of the family, whatever its claims upon the respect of those whom it governed so long, we recognize no obligation and no right on the part of the Powers to interfere especially on its behalf; and we cannot be blind to the deep responsibility of leaving any shadow of doubt as to our sentiments, at a time when passions are likely to be roused, and a spirit of intrigue may prevail among the disappointed. We must bear steadily in mind, that the restoration of tranquillity under the enjoyment of this last crowning concession, is the one great object now to be secured.

The motives which have determined this line of conduct might preclude us, in point of consistency, from entering into any discussion with the Porte as to the details of execution, even if we felt ourselves qualified by sufficient information to undertake the task. It is manifest, at the same time, that the result of the Porte's decision will principally depend upon the manner and spirit in which it is carried into effect. The character of Assaad Pasha seems open to favourable impressions, and your friendly intercourse with his Excellency may afford you opportunities of exercising a beneficial and not inconvenient influence on the present occasion. The choice of the individuals to be selected for the government of the Mountain is, no doubt, of the greatest importance. It is most desirable that they should enjoy the general respect, if not the affection and confidence of the people.

But it is also desirable that, without being the mere creatures and tools of the Vizier, they should be alive to the importance of deserving his goodwill, and maintaining the inhabitants of the Mountain in peace with each other, and in lawful obedience to the Sultan.

I have every reason to believe that you will find your colleagues authorized, as well as disposed, to concur with you in pursuing this line of conduct, remembering that interference, even limited to the most prudential forms, should be rather the exception than the rule; and that its value will be generally in proportion to the quiet and unobtrusive manner in which it is exercised. What I thus state, with a view to your instruction, has been practised here throughout the whole course of our proceedings relating to Syria, and nothing can be more satisfactory than the uniform and unanimous character which prevails in this last stage of them between my colleagues and myself.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

#### No. 84.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

(Extract.)

*Buyukderé, December 17, 1842.*

I HAVE not succeeded in ascertaining from Sarim Effendi, upon what individuals, or upon what families, the choice of the Porte may be expected to fall in appointing the native Governors, or Kaimakams, for Mount Lebanon. In answer to my inquiry, he said, that the selection would be left to Assaad Pasha; and, in truth, I know not that it could be assigned to better hands in the present disturbed state of the country and doubtful position of parties, provided the Pasha be at liberty to act with sincerity, and to lend an ear to the counsels of those who may naturally be supposed to have other means than his of knowing the disposition and real wishes of the inhabitants.

With respect to the renewed employment of the Albanians, which came

to my knowledge only yesterday, I have sent in an expression of deep concern and surprize, and I think it by no means unlikely, that the adoption of some joint step, on the part of the Representatives, may be found indispensable.

I have again recommended the restitution of El-Kassim's property ; I have spoken in favour of a liberal treatment of the Shehabs in general, now that they are definitely excluded from power ; and I have urged the expediency of releasing the prisoners at Acre and Beyrout.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent me an assurance, that he will exert himself for the attainment of these objects, but I should not like to be held responsible for the effect of his exertions.

I have only to add, that in communicating with those persons who may be considered as the partizans of the Shehab family, I have been careful to inculcate the propriety, the expediency, and the duty of their abstaining from any intrigues calculated to create a necessity for its recall to the administration of Mount Lebanon.

Judging from the general tendency of the information, which has reached me, such a necessity is by no means unlikely to occur ; and if it were to arise out of the natural order of events, or from the crooked policy of the Porte, counsels more favourable to their pretensions would, no doubt, prevail in proportion as the want of them would be felt. But I am confident, and such is the conviction which I have endeavoured to produce in their minds, that the triumph will ultimately rest with that party which deals most fairly, and abstains, at present, from useless resistance, and mischievous intrigue.

No. 85.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Buyukdere, December 17, 1843.*

I answer to a message which I sent to Sarim Effendi, complaining of the renewed employment of Albanian troops in Mount Lebanon, on the authority of a despatch which I received yesterday from Lieutenant-Colonel Rose, his Excellency assures me that his former promise on that subject has been carried into effect, under the express commands of the Porte ; that he has no knowledge of the Albanians having been again sent into the Mountain, and cannot imagine that I have been correctly informed.

I am the more surprised at the clear and positive language which appears to have been used by Sarim Effendi, as my despatches from Syria were brought by a Turkish steamer, which, it is to be presumed, was also the bearer of despatches to the Government.

At all events, it is satisfactory to find that the Turkish Minister does not shrink from his former assurance, on a point to which Her Majesty's Government so justly attach a deep importance.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 86.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 20, 1843.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatches from the 7th to the 18th of December ; and with reference to those among them in which your Excellency gives an account of the course adopted by yourself and your colleagues on receiving the reply of the Porte on the subject of the future government of Syria, I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your proceedings on that matter, and are highly gratified with the success

which has attended your Excellency's zealous and persevering efforts in carrying into effect the objects pointed out in the instructions with which you have from time to time been furnished.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

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## No. 87.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 25, 1843.)*

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 31, 1842.

IN obedience to your Lordship's commands I have applied to the Ex-Emir Beshir El-Kassim for a statement of his claims upon the Porte. They consist of lands usurped by the Druses, of moveable property plundered, and of arrears of salary for himself and persons in his employment. El-Kassim does not wish to prosecute his claim to the lands at present. The list of the moveable or personal property which he claims, comprizes a great variety of objects difficult to be recovered, to be estimated, or to be ascertained. The arrears of salary amount to 84,000 piastres a-month during the term of more than two years, to which his administration of Mount Lebanon extended. The Porte referred this claim to the Treasurer, who is alleged to have agreed with El-Kassim for the amount of his allowances and of those assigned to the individuals who served under his authority. The Treasurer's report, if given in, has not yet been communicated to me. I can only state, in the mean time, that on the side of El-Kassim there is probably much exaggeration, on that of the Porte an equal reluctance to admit his demands, and on both sides a want of method and explicitness, which makes it difficult to ascertain the equity of the case, and nearly as difficult to obtain a clear statement of it. I propose to return to the subject as soon as I have anything more ample or decisive to communicate, and your Lordship, I trust, understands that I have already on more than one occasion employed the influence of Her Majesty's Embassy in favour of El-Kassim and his pending interests.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

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## No. 88.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 6.)*

(Extract.)

Constantinople, January 17, 1843.

I AVAILED myself of the opportunity to inquire as to what had been done in favour of the ex-Emir Beshir El-Kassim. The Effendi replied that a firman had been issued for the restitution of that part of his property which had been lost in the late troubles, and that orders had been given for paying him those arrears of his appointment which were really due, out of the tribute collected from Mount Lebanon.

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**PART II.**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

**WITH**

**HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL-GENERAL IN SYRIA,**

**AND**

**HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL AT DAMASCUS,**

**RESPECTING THE**

**AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.**

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*Presented to the House of Commons, by the Queen's Command, in pursuance of their  
Address to Her Majesty of the 28th February, 1843.*

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**PRINTED BY T. R. HARRISON.**





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PART II.

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CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL-GENERAL IN SYRIA,

AND

HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL AT DAMASCUS,

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

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No. 1.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, May 3, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to make the following report to your Lordship on the state of the country during the last month.

On the 4th instant, the Emir Ibn Raslan of Shooyfaat, and the Sheik Hussein Talhook of Aylût, persons of note amongst the Druses, were arrested by the Turkish authorities, and brought to Beyrout; a third, Abd-el-Maieck, escaped. These three persons are charged by the Emir Beshir with endeavouring to create disaffection amongst the Druses, and to excite them to opposition to the changes which he is about to introduce in the Government of the Lebanon, conformably to the plan agreed on between His Highness and Mr. Wood. The chief of these changes is the formation of a Divan, or assembly of deputies of the Lebanon. It is to consist of eleven members and a president, who is named by the Prince. The members are to consist of one Maronite, one Greek schismatic, or Antioch, one Greek Catholic, one Druse, one Mahometan, and one Mutuali, who are to be all heads of their different religious professions. Five members, sent from the districts of Shoof, Meten, Kesrouan, Djebail, and Botwan, and Djebail Zainieh, complete the number of deputies. The leading Emirs and Sheiks of the Druses view this assembly with jealousy, as the power and influence which they formerly possessed will, in a great measure, be centred in the Divan; and they assert, that the Druses are not sufficiently represented in it. The Druses have never willingly acknowledged the direct authority of the Prince of the Mountain, by whom they were only governed, even formerly, through princes of their own, the Sheik Beshirs, the last of whom was put to death by the deposed Emir Beshir, who is now in Malta. He is half a Druse, and his wealth and power kept all in subjection. Unfortunately, the present Emir Beshir is hardly suited to these times. He is above seventy-two years of age, has had two paralytic strokes, is deaf, and his personal appearance is against him. He is avaricious; but General Jochmus and Colonel Lane say, that he acted well in the field. His age and infirmities lead the Syrians to conjecture as to who will succeed him, as he has no son. His nephew, who was well thought of, lost his eye-sight totally at a manœuvre.

The favourite, on the whole, in the Mountain, is the Emir Emin, the second son of the deposed Emir Beshir, who is called "The Pen of the Mountain," from his being a person of education, in distinction to his youngest brother, the Emir Hallil, "The Sword of the Mountain." He is looked up to by the mountaineers for his military conduct. The eldest brother is an idiot. A vain attempt was made by a secretary of the deposed Emir Beshir Shehabi, to induce the inhabitants of the Lebanon to sign a petition to the Porte for the restoration of his master; but it failed. His cruelties and exactions will never be forgotten in



Syria ; persons without eyes and noses are pointed out in the mountains as his victims. His son, the Emir Emin, is now with his father in Malta. His character, and the wealth he will inherit from his father, must always make him a person of consideration in this country.

Some Druses, about seven weeks ago, had formed a plan to go to the Emir Beshir's residence, on the pretext of paying him a visit, and then to take his life; and, on the other hand, His Highness had invited the leaders of his opponents to dine with him, with the intention of seizing them; but he was dissuaded from doing so. The arrest of the two Druses, and the promise which they gave on their liberation, to discontinue their intrigues, have quieted the Druses for the present, whose attention besides, together with that of all the Lebanites, is engrossed by the new taxes which have been proposed by the Turkish authorities.

On the 10th of April, Selim Pasha and the Musteshar Effendi invited me to be present at the reading of the *Tanzimati Hairiyé*, at the house of the former. The Consuls were present. It was afterwards read publicly. I requested the field officers then here, to attend also in full dress, in order to do honour to the reading of the Sultan's pleasure. The people were extremely pleased with the *Tanzimati Hairiyé*, but more particularly with the book of ordinances which accompanies it, and which I have had translated from the Arabic.

Shortly after the 10th of April, the Musteshar Effendi submitted his plan of taxation to the Divan of Beyrout. His Excellency caused the doors of the Divan to be shut, and made the members take an oath that they would not divulge the communication which he was about to make to them. After having referred to Ibrahim Pasha's book of taxes, he proposed to the Divan that a tax should be laid on every person, varying according to their means. The members were alarmed, and said, "That will be the same as the *Ferdé*, the tax which was one of the causes of revolt against Ibrahim Pasha." The Musteshar then proposed to give it another name, "*Anat*," which means "help." Frequent and rather angry discussions have since taken place in the Divan, with respect to this and the other proposed taxes, the Christian members being opposed to, and the Mahometan in favour of, them. The following are the taxes which were proposed by the Musteshar:—

1st. The tax of 12 per cent. on all exports, according to the commercial Treaty of 1838.

2nd. The tax of 10 per cent. on all produce.

3rd. The "*Atea*" tax in lieu of the *Ferdé*, (which means single, or individual.)

4th. The *Haradj*, or Religious tax.

The opponents of these taxes state that the tariff, as they call the first tax, is a heavy one on the inhabitants of the Lebanon, because, from the nature of the soil, and other causes, corn, rice, and the necessities of life cannot be cultivated there, the whole of the country being planted with mulberry trees for the growth of the silk-worm; that, therefore, they must pay in the first instance 12 per cent. export duty, and purchase corn and articles of food in Beyrout, which are imported from Egypt, Candia, and other Turkish provinces, and are sold, therefore, in Syria with the charge of 12 per cent. export duty on them. They assert, therefore, that this tax with the addition of 1 per cent. for port charges, amounts to 25 per cent.

They object to the second tax of 10 per cent on produce, considering the first tax as sufficient.

The third class they declare to be the "*Ferdé*."

The fourth, the *Haradj*, they assert was never demanded from the Mountain before.

About ten days ago the Emir Beshir arrived at Beyrout with a deputation from the Mountain consisting of two Princes, a Maronite Bishop of the name of Tubia, and several Sheiks, in order to be present at the discussion respecting the taxes. Frequent meetings took place on this subject, and on Sunday last the Turkish authorities gave way so far as not to demand any tax except the tariff and 4000 purses to be raised by the Divan of Lebanon. I say that the Turkish authorities gave way, but I am afraid that they only did so ostensibly, with a view to get rid of the Emir Beshir and his companions, for at the very time that the two secretaries of the Musteshar were proposing this abatement of the taxation to His Highness, the Musteshar was enumerating to me the four taxes, the Tariff, the 10 per cent., the *Atea*, and the *Haradj*, as those which

must be paid by Lebanon, but he proposed to do away with the names of the Atea and Haradj, and to charge them on property.

The representatives of the mountaineers refused, however, to accept the abatement of the taxes, and the Bishop Tubia and his assistant announced with much warmth that he should return to the Mountain, announce the proposed taxes, but not recommend his countrymen to pay one para of them. He added, that they had not yet received the slightest indemnification for the numerous villages which had been burnt by Ibrahim Pasha in revenge for the rising of the mountaineers in favor of the Sultan; that Selim Pasha had given a written promise to the inhabitants of the Kesrouan, which they had in their possession, that they should be exempt from all taxes for three years, as a reward to them for having been the first to throw off the rule of Ibrahim Pasha, and that promises had been made to them that they should be freed from the burdens with which they were oppressed in the time of Ibrahim Pasha, but that so far from this being the case, the taxes, even with the proposed reduction, would amount to six times as much as they had paid under Ibrahim Pasha. The bishop calculated that the taxes on the Lebanon under Ibrahim Pasha amounted to 7000 purses. The bishop, however, was not correct, for he did not reckon the Tessereveh, a tax in corn and some other articles of food, which existed under the rule of the Egyptians; nor did he take into account the exactions of the Emir Beshir, the deposed one, which were immense.

The Maronites in the present day are a difficult people to deal with. They are extremely alive to their own interest.

The inhabitants of Lebanon will not contribute enough, and the Turks demand too much taxation. From all I saw and heard, I foresaw a critical state of affairs. I do not think that the Mountain would have had recourse to arms, unless the Turks had marched troops into Lebanon to enforce the payment of the taxes; in that case, I think there might have been a collision. But I felt certain, that the circumstance of the Turkish Government demanding a heavier tax from the Lebanon than Ibrahim Pasha had done, and more than it could pay, would alone be a source of pain to Her Majesty's Government. I therefore suggested to Mr. Consul Moore, who quite agreed with me, that it might be attended with good results if we waited together on Selim Pasha, and conveyed to him our opinion that the amount of taxation demanded from the Mountain was beyond what it could pay, and that every thing considered, it would be advisable not to put the tax into operation for the present, but to refer the subject to Constantinople. Captain Arbuthnot accompanied us to Selim Pasha, who received our communication very well.

We represented to His Excellency that the gain of a few thousand piastres was as nothing compared with the incalculable harm which might ensue from a serious misunderstanding between the Sultan's Government and so influential a portion of Syria as Lebanon. I am happy to be able to inform your Lordship, that the result of our application to Selim Pasha has been a suspension of this scheme of taxation until an answer on the subject has been received from the Turkish Government at Constantinople. I shall have the honour to represent what has taken place to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

## No. 2.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, May 4, 1841.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 3rd May, to your Lordship, on the state of the country, I have the honour to state, that several facts have come to my knowledge, which give proof of misgovernment on the part of the Turkish authorities, as well as of their intolerant feeling towards the Christian population of this country.

Commander the Honourable Henry Murray, of Her Majesty's ship "Wasp," arrived here about ten days ago from Tyre, bringing with him a petition from the Bishop and Christian inhabitants, and the English Vice-Consul of that place, detailing the misconduct of their Governor, a Mutuali. I asked

Captain Murray whether he would have any objection to accompany me to Selim Pasha, and state to His Excellency the complaints against the Governor: he at once agreed to do so. Captain Pring, of Her Majesty's ship "Inconstant," requested me to tell Selim Pasha, that our communication to him had his entire approval, and that he would have accompanied us to His Excellency, had he not been unwell. Captain Murray stated the conduct of the Governor of Tyre to the Turkish Marshal, who promised an immediate enquiry. I observed, that the "Inconstant" was to sail that evening, and that I knew that Captain Pring would be glad to give a passage to any Turkish officer whom His Excellency might select to proceed to Tyre, to investigate the conduct of the Governor. Selim Pasha immediately directed an officer to embark on board the "Inconstant," which sailed with the "Wasp," the same evening.

Accounts have been just received from Damascus, that Nejib Pasha, who has under him that Pashalic, has shewn intolerant feelings towards the Christians, forbidding their use of the white turban, which, henceforth, is only to be worn by Mussulmans; and, further, that the support of any of the Consuls at Damascus to a petition to His Excellency, generally ensures its failure. He passed through Beyrout about a month ago with his jester, who always dines with him, and four hundred attendants, on his way from Constantinople to Damascus. He arrived without, but departed with seven very fine horses, all presents to him, it is said, from two rival candidates for a governorship which is in his gift. He has now appointed Mahomed Abdul, who was Mushir of Acre under Ibrahim Pasha, to be Governor of Gaza, the Syrian frontier town, Ramleh, and the greater part of the south of Syria, being in his jurisdiction. The person to whom Nejib Pasha has given this important trust, is a known adherent of Mehemet Ali; being besides strongly suspected of having hired persons to set fire to the powder magazine at Acre, after its surrender, he was placed under surveillance by Selim Pasha and Mr. Wood, in order to be sent to Constantinople. The present which Mahomed Abdul gave to the Pasha of Damascus, for his appointment, is said to have amounted to 50,000 piastres.

At a meeting of the Divan in Beyrout a few days ago, the Mufti refused to take the evidence of a witness, because he was a Christian.

Selim Pasha, also showed symptoms of wrong-headedness the other day, having caused proclamation to be made in Beyrout, that no inhabitant is to smoke, or sit before his door when a Pasha, or any officer of as low rank as a captain passes, but that he must rise and salute him, on pain of forty-two days' imprisonment. In a conversation which Mr. Moore and myself had with His Excellency, Mr. Moore drew his attention to the latter part of the proclamation, as being painful to the feelings of the respectable inhabitants. Selim Pasha admitted this, and said that it should be rescinded.

The lower orders of Turks have also given evidence of intolerance; and it was generally remarked that the birth-day of Mahomet, which took place yesterday, had never before been celebrated with so much ceremony or ostentation.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson reports to me, from Mount Carmel, that the Cadi of Caiffa had extremely ill-treated the Christian inhabitants of that town.

I will not trespass on your Lordship's most valuable time with further details.

I should not have done my duty towards your Lordship, if I had not made your Lordship acquainted with facts which will enable you to form so much better an opinion than I can do, as to the state of feeling which must exist on the part of the Christian inhabitants of this country towards the Turks and their government; feelings, however, which are not shared in by the Mussulman part of the population, which is far more intolerant than the Turks themselves. The Mahometans of Beyrout, in the time of Ibrahim Pasha, had formed a conspiracy to put to death the Christians. Ibrahim Pasha discovered it on the eve of its execution, and inflicted capital punishment on several of the conspirators.

With reference to the several communications which I have had with the Turkish authorities, I beg to assure your Lordship, that I am quite aware of the delicacy of my position; still, after anxious reflection, I have felt it to be my duty, not to remain within what is perhaps the strict line of my service, when the expression of the opinion of the officer commanding Her Majesty's troops, most carefully and courteously conveyed to the Turkish authorities, might avert results which would cause regret to your Lordship and Her Majesty's Govern-

ment. It is due to the Turkish officers to say, that they have always received my suggestions in a manner which evinces the respect they entertain for Her Majesty's Government.

No. 3.

*Viscount Palmerston to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 11, 1841.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 4th of May, containing some particulars relative to the misconduct of certain Turkish authorities in Syria; and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your proceedings with respect to that matter, and the steps which you have taken to prevent the recurrence of similar misconduct on the part of those authorities.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 4.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 5.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, May 22, 1841.*

THE Druses are the bravest and most energetic of the inhabitants of the Lebanon; a fact admitted by all, even by their rivals the Maronites, although not quite to the extent of the Lebanon proverb, "That one Druse cloak is worth three Maronite men." They inhabit the strongest and most inaccessible districts of the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, and, in the Haouran, the Ledgea, which is a series of strongholds, from whence the united forces of Ibrahim Pasha, in the years 1838 and 1839, could not expel them. The Druses, unvanquished, dictated to the Egyptian general the terms on which they consented to cease their opposition to him.

But another circumstance gives additional importance to the Druses; and that is, the fellowship which unites them to the Greek Antiochians, who are more numerous than any other sect in Syria. I believe that the real bond of union between these two parties is their mutual jealousy and distrust of the Maronites and the Greek Catholics. The Druses alone would prevent any other party from assuming an ascendancy in Lebanon; but united with the Greek Antiochians, they must command it.

No. 5.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 5.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, May 22, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, in continuation of my despatch of the 3rd instant, that on the 4th instant, the Musteshar Effendi, accompanied by Selim Pasha, the Seraskier, proceeded to the cordon at the Pine Wood, and read the new Firman of Taxes to the Governors and Deputies of Acre, Caiffa, Belad B'scherre, and the adjoining districts. They were in numbers about 400. The taxes were the Tariff, the Ten per Cent., the Atea, and the Haradj, or Religious Tax, so called because it is solely levied on Christians, in payment for the protection afforded them by the Mahometans. At the mention of the Atea, the Assembly broke out into loud murmurs, saying, "That is the Ferdé, Poll Tax. We have been ruined by the taxation under Ibrahim Pasha, but that which you propose is far worse. You may take our bones, but you will never be able to get these taxes from us." The demeanour of the people was threatening, and His Excellency becoming alarmed, adjourned the meeting. Several discussions have since taken place between the Musteshar

and the Deputies, but no satisfactory result was attained, so little so, that on Saturday, the 8th instant, the meeting was more stormy than any had yet been.

With respect to the taxes for the Lebanon, I had the honour to state to your Lordship in my despatch of the 3rd instant, that the Turkish Authorities had agreed to suspend their operation until they had received an answer respecting them from Constantinople. On Sunday the 3rd instant, the Emir Beshir signed a document, in which he agreed to pay, on the part of the Mountaineers, the Tariff, that is, the 12 per cent. on exports and imports, and 3,500 purses annually to the Sultan, deducting 2,200 purses for the expenses of the Government of Lebanon. His Highness also stipulated that his subjects should have permission to import corn, free of duty, at the rate of seven kilos for each family. When His Highness communicated the contents of this agreement to the Deputies of the Lebanon assembled at Beyrout, those of Kesrouan declared that they would pay no taxes, having been exempted from them for three years by a written promise from the Seraskier, Selim Pasha: a promise which they say was verbally confirmed by Mr. Wood. The other Deputies stated, that if the inhabitants of the Kesrouan were to be exempted, they had an equal right to be so also, having received verbal promises of the same nature as those made to Kesrouan, from Her Majesty's and the Sultan's officers, in reward for their rising against the Egyptians. Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins informs me that he heard considerable promises made last year by Her Majesty's servants to the Mountaineers, when he was at Djouni.

I had reason to believe that the plan of taxation was a scheme of the Musteshar's, and that he was not authorized to propose it for this country by the Porte, and I mistrusted him, because at the very time, as I had the honour to state to your Lordship in my despatch of the 3rd instant, that His Excellency was assuring me that he intended to carry through the four taxes, that is, the Tariff, the 10 per Cent., the Yurk, or Atea, and the Haradj; his two Secretaries were proposing, in his Excellency's name, to the Deputies of the Lebanon, to remit all the taxes except the Tariff and 4,200 purses.

It is my duty to give to your Lordship a knowledge of the men to whom the government of Syria is confided. The Musteshar Effendi, who ranks with a Minister of State, has charge of the finance, and is the highest civil authority in this country, has for some time back been suspected of peculation by his colleague in office, Selim Pasha, the Seraskier, who is the highest military authority. The latter directed Mr. Misk, an officer of the Customs at Beyrout, to watch the Musteshar, and to furnish him, Selim Pasha, with a return of the duties actually paid at the custom-house. Mr. Misk did so, and on his return being compared with that made by the Musteshar, it appeared that his Excellency had only credited his Government with daily receipts of 5,000 piastres, whereas, by Mr. Misk's return, they amounted to 10,000 piastres. The Musteshar hardly ever pays a bill for Government without deducting a per centage for himself; from one quarter alone, not long ago, he received 10,000 piastres for the payment of a Government debt of 200,000 piastres. In Gaza, his Excellency sold wheat to a person for 35,000 piastres, and after receiving this money, re-sold the same wheat to another individual for 52,000 piastres. The person, who has lost both his money and the wheat, is arrived here, and makes urgent applications to the Musteshar for the 35,000 piastres. His Excellency acknowledges his claim, although he declines to pay it. It is calculated that this Minister has made about two millions of piastres by peculation and bribes. On the other hand, the Seraskier was a slave; he reads with difficulty, and is learning to write; and although he is brave, and a better soldier than Turks generally are, yet he is very inferior as to ability in other respects. He believes that the world is carried by two bulls on their horns, and that earthquakes are occasioned by the movements which they make; and he gave a proof of his ignorance of public opinion, by ordering that the inhabitants of Beyrout should rise from their seats, cease smoking, and salute all officers as low in rank as a captain. It was evident then, that the policy of the Turkish Government in demanding excessive contributions from the Lebanon, which had risen against Mehemet Ali, mainly because he had overtaxed her, would be rendered still more hazardous by being under the direction of the Musteshar Effendi and the Seraskier, such as I have described them; and the utter destitution of the Treasury made it only too probable that these functionaries would again bring forward their original scheme of taxation, more especially as they had never

officially withdrawn it, and still persevered in imposing it on the southern inhabitants of the Pashalic.

All these circumstances induced Mr. Moore and myself to make a second communication to the Turkish Authorities, to the effect, that as a taxation had been demanded from the Lebanon, which the inhabitants as well of that principality, as of other districts, declared they could never pay; and as the inhabitants, in declining to pay, had urged that they had been exempted from taxes by Her Majesty's and the Sultan's servants acting in concert, in reward for the aid given to Her Majesty's forces, and those of His Imperial Highness, by the mountaineers, we were desirous of knowing whether the taxes had been demanded by the order of the Sublime Porte, or whether they were imposed by their Excellencies? We added that, in the latter case, the reasons which the Lebanon had assigned for a remission of the taxes at least deserved consideration, and that every thing considered, we most earnestly recommended that the present plan of taxation should not be persevered in till the pleasure of His Imperial Highness the Sultan had been taken on it. The Musteshar, and the Seraskier, without giving any answer as to whether the plan of taxation had, or had not, emanated from them, agreed to comply fully with our wishes. Conciliatory conduct was adopted towards the Emir Beshir, and the deputies of the Lebanon and the other districts: to the former a sabre was given, and the latter received presents of cloaks and watches. It was understood that the taxes would not be enforced for the present, with the exception of the Tariff, which is law; and the Emir Beshir received the sanction of the Turkish authorities, to hold a meeting to take into consideration his agreement which I have before mentioned. The Tariff will probably be objected to, and perhaps there will be an expression of opinion as to the Divan, which does not appear to be popular, and the meeting will petition.

Mr. Moore and myself have impressed on Mr. Misk, the Emir Beshir's secretary, and one or two influential persons, amongst them the Greek Archbishop Benjamin, the necessity of pointing out to the leading people of the Mountain, the madness of allowing themselves to be seduced by the misrepresentations of false friends and agents, who were only acting for their own ends, to seek, as it would be, a collision with the Turkish Government, which had given proof of its wish to conciliate, by reducing the taxation, and referring the matter to Constantinople, for the consideration of the Sultan, whose benevolence and good will towards Syria, no one could doubt. That a recourse to arms, which we knew had been alluded to, would, besides indisposing those who felt the deepest interest in Syria,—an interest of which they had given good earnest, by exposing for her sake the finest fleet which had ever sailed in the Mediterranean, to the chances of war,—check, if not altogether defeat, the measures which were in progress for her welfare. I told Mr. Misk confidentially, that he might, as if from himself, bring to the notice of the chiefs of the people, that the Turks, without firing a shot, or stirring from their strong towns, might reduce the Lebanon to a state of starvation; and that they had a formidable fleet which would cruise along the coast, provision their own troops, and at the same time prevent supplies from reaching Lebanon. But there are other modes of suppressing revolt in this country, and which have been so frequently put into practice, that they probably would not be overlooked by the Turks; I allude to the facility which has at all times existed to exciting one part of the population against the other; so easy and so cheap a mode of quelling insurrection would have attractions for the Turks, whose army, if they were to attempt to take the field, and leave the towns, would infallibly be defeated. Selim Pasha, the Seraskier who commands in Syria, was much surprised when the late General Michell expressed his opinion that it would not be prudent to move a brigade of infantry against the same force of cavalry with eleven guns of Horse Artillery in a plain. His only argument was, that his troops were brave. A promise to the Druses to restore the almost sovereign power which the Djinblat family once possessed, to that powerful house, together with an assurance that the Druse Sheiks should be again vested with the power which is now absorbed by the Divan, would at once range that warlike people as allies to the Sultan, against the Maronites, with whom they are not connected, either by religion or clanship; on the contrary, their relations have always been hostile. A still less price would purchase the aid of the Mutualis.

I do not think that there will be an armed outbreak, certainly not for the present. The Mountaineers will await the result of a reference of their com-



plaints to the Sublime Porte. If the Turks have been too grasping, the Mountaineers, on the other hand, have been not honest in their general refusal to contribute the necessary support to the Government; and their conduct is not the less blameable, because this refusal is in reality based, not so much on their own impoverished state, as on the hopes which they found on the weakness of the Turkish Government.

In conclusion, I have the honour to state to your Lordship, that unless men be sent to this country, whose opinions will command respect in every way, and who will place the taxation on an equitable footing with a due regard to the interests of the Sultan, the condition of the people, and the promises which have been made to them, I submit my most respectful opinion, that unless such a measure be adopted, disorder and insurrection will prevail in Syria.

Frequent assertions have been made, that in the formation of the camp at Djouni, last year, the English and Turkish troops caused considerable damage to the property of individuals, and I venture to suggest that if your Lordship were pleased to direct that an inquiry should be made into the loss sustained by the inhabitants, with a view to their indemnification, it would cause general satisfaction.

No. 6.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 5.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, May 28, 1841.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th of May, in which I had the honour to make your Lordship acquainted with the misconduct of the Governor of Tyre, I have now to state, for your Lordship's information, that that civil officer is now in the prison here, having been sent up from Tyre, for the purpose of being tried, by order of the Seraskier Selim Pasha.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 7.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 5.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, May 28, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that the meeting of the leading people of the Lebanon, which I mentioned in my despatch of the 22nd instant, took place at Ainoob, about three leagues from Beyrout. There were present 800 persons, members of the principal Druse and Christian families of the Lebanon.

The Emir Beshir informed the assembly that he had exerted himself to the utmost to reduce the taxation which had been proposed by the Turkish Government, which, however, continued to demand the payment of the tariff, and of 4,200 purses yearly from the Mountain. The Deputies declared their inability to pay the demands, and brought forward their claims for exemption from them, which were grounded on the promises made to them, their losses and suffering occasioned by the part which they had taken in favour of the Sultan. Bishop Tubia, a Maronite, complained of the tariff, and made a calculation by which he proved that on an oke of silk, worth 120 piastres, the seller would only gain 13 piastres, after paying the tariff and other expenses. He recommended that the tariff should not be levied in the country between Acre and Tripoli, and proposed that the meeting should address a petition to France, on which Archbishop Benjamin, of the Greek orthodox church, observed, "Why to France? France has nothing to do in this matter. We ought to address ourselves to England and the allied Powers." Bishop Tubia replied, that England had confirmed, put her seal on, "Natama," these demands of the Turkish Government. The Archbishop said that he had authority for stating that this was not the case. Bishop Tubia observed, that



in that case the meeting had better petition England, Austria, and France; on which the Archbishop asked why Russia was to be excluded? On the third day the Deputies agreed to petition the Porte. The meeting lasted six days, and after the first sitting it broke up into small knots of persons, who discussed the matters under deliberation. The Emir Beshir did not appear to take any lead in affairs, nor to command much authority. This account was given to me by an eye-witness.

The meeting were unanimous in favour of the abolition of the tariff, and indeed of all taxes. The object of the Mountaineers appears to be to free themselves from the tariff, and to gain all they can from the Turks. Mr Misk thinks that if the prayer of the petition is not granted, there will be a partial insurrection, in which the Maronites will take the principal part against the Porte; the Druses, he thinks, might easily be induced to support the Turkish authority. This coincides with the opinion which I had the honour to express to your Lordship in my despatch of May 22.

An attempt was made by the Druses to transfer the sovereign power from the Emir Beshir to the Emir Soliman of Huddiet, a Mahometan; but this proposition was rejected by the Maronites in a body, the Patriarch going so far as to say, that if the Druses persisted in this project, he would collect and arm all his clergy in support of the Emir Beshir.

The feeling of the meeting seemed so strong against the Divan, that the Emir Beshir did not think it prudent to propose its introduction.

Before the meeting broke up, it agreed, with the exception of the Druses, to address the Ministers of Great Britain, Austria, and France. These petitions have not yet arrived here, but they will be very much the same as that which is to be submitted on the part of the meeting to the Turkish Ministry at Constantinople and of which I have the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy, which was given to me by Mr. Moore. The Druses would not sign any of the petitions to the Foreign Powers, because they thought that if they signed one they must sign all.

With respect to the tariff Mr. Misk states that it was introduced to replace the monopolies which existed to so great an extent in the Ottoman Empire; but as there were no monopolies in Syria, except a very trifling one of salt, an excuse exists for lowering this tax. I asked him what he really thought the Mountain would agree to pay; he said that he felt sure it would pay 3 per cent. and 3,500 purses annually. The fact of no corn or grain being cultivated in the Lebanon, renders the operation of the tariff severer in this country than in districts where there are mixed crops.

From the difference of opinion which took place between the Druses and the Maronites, it is clear that nothing would be easier than to arm one of these parties against the other, which corroborates what I had the honour to state to your Lordship in my despatch of May 22.

A communication of an extraordinary nature has just been made to me by the Seraskier Selim Pasha, and it seems quite to confirm the idea I had formed, that the Turkish Government here had acted without authority from the Sublime Porte in the matter of the taxation. His Excellency sent me a verbal message by a gentleman who acts as interpreter for us, to say that he had nothing whatever to do with the taxes which had been proposed for this country; that the Musteshar Effendi had no authority to act as he had done; and that as all the grievances complained of in the petition were under his consideration in order to be redressed; that there could be no use in the inhabitants petitioning the Foreign Powers, which he did not at all approve, as he was the proper authority to whom all complaints should be addressed. I cannot imagine how his Excellency can say that he knew nothing of the taxation, as he was present at the reading of the firman which detailed them, and at the various discussions which were held respecting them. He is alarmed at the turn affairs have taken, and is probably anxious that I should not make an unfavourable report of them to your Lordship. From the message, I am inclined to think that money has been sent from Constantinople to indemnify the inhabitants for their losses in the late insurrection and for the damage done by the troops.

It will show your Lordship the singular short-sightedness of the Turks, when I state, that the Seraskier consulted this morning his interpreter as to whether he should or should not forward the petition of the inhabitants of the Lebanon to his Government.

## Inclosure in No. 7.

*Memorial of the Emirs and Sheiks of the Lebanon to the Sublime Porte, dated 1st Rebbi-akhir, 1257.—(May 22, 1841.)*

NOTRE joie était inexprimable, nous habitans du Mont Liban, vos esclaves, quand nous avons réussi par votre puissante influence et votre sublime et majestueux nom à défaire les troupes Egyptiennes et chasser ce gouvernement oppressif de nos foyers, et ainsi rejeter le pèsant et despotique joug du Pacha d'Egypte. Et nous eûmes par là une satisfaction des plus vives de rentrer sous le clément gouvernement de la Sublime Porte, que Dieu la protège et la maintienne victorieuse ! Et nous n'avons pas cessé depuis à réitérer nos vœux au Suprême pour la complète victoire de notre Roi, le Sultan Abdul-Medjid Khan, protecteur de l'humanité, que Dieu consolide son empire pour des siècles !

Pendant que vos sujets attendaient anxieusement d'être rétablis dans une parfaite tranquillité et jouir de vos grâces spéciales, dignes de l'honneur impérial de la Sublime Porte, pour notre rémunération des services pénibles et des sacrifices que nous avons faits (en combattant le Gouvernement Egyptien) conformément aux ordres et la volonté de notre souverain, voici que nos espérances se sont rendues fallacieuses et bien loin à ce que nous attendions de la bonté de la Sublime Porte. Des impôts injurieux viennent de nous être imposés, dont le plus grave et capital est le "tarif," qui charge tous les ports et les villes de l'empire avec des droits exorbitans, et par vos ordres imposés sur notre pays ; et quoique notre Sultan ne considère que cette mesure de taxation n'est pas dangereuse pour l'empire, elle est en effet très ruineuse pour nous ; et ce tarif ne tardera pas à nous dépouiller et nous écraser. Et ce n'est pas étonnant, si nous venons de prévoir tous ces dangers ; et quoique cette mesure du tarif est, en lui-même, efficace pour régler, en général, le bien-être du peuple, elle est exceptionnelle pour notre montagne par plusieurs raisons évidentes.

Comme il faut remarquer avant tout, que nous, soumis pétitionnaires, nous ne vivons pas ni de commerce, ni des arts, ni d'aucune autre industrie ; nous n'avons même des plaines où récolter nos grains ; tout notre bien consiste dans l'agriculture le plus pénible, pour cultiver notre terrain (rocailleux et la plus part stérile), pour y planter les mûriers pour en récolter la soie, principale branche de notre ressource, et ensuite quelque chose en huile.

Nous sommes ensuite forcés par nos nécessités indispensables à réaliser ces deux articles pour acheter des céréales pour notre subsistance, et dans ces transactions, comme votre Altesse pourra aisément relever, nous sommes forcés d'une part à vendre nos produits, souvent à vils prix, et de l'autre à acheter les grains à très haut prix ; et par conséquent, les spéculateurs qui nous achètent la soie et l'huile voudront déduire du prix de ces articles les droits imposés par le tarif, et les vendeurs des grains voudront y charger les droits également ; comme nous venons d'expérimenter, dans nos transactions depuis l'établissement du nouveau tarif, que le cinquième de nos biens est pris : nous citerons un exemple que l'expérience vient de nous montrer, qu'en payant sur notre soie le 12 pour cent, et y ajouter 10 pour cent (qu'on nous prend à la douane), une oke de soie paie 16 piastres pour être vendue à 120 piastres ; et d'un autre côté, nous achetions, avant la mise en vigueur du tarif, avec une oke de soie ou 120 piastres, dix rubés de bled, et dès que le tarif a existé, nous ne pouvions pas avoir que huit rubés seulement, de manière qu'on nous fait payer le cinquième de notre bien qui est le 20 pour cent. En radoublant cette transaction nous payons 40 piastres pour une oke de soie, et nous devons déduire aussi le tiers du produit de notre terrain pour les frais du soin des vers-à-soie ; qui est  $26\frac{2}{3}$  piastres par oke ; frais du travail d'agriculture, &c., 40 piastres. Il nous restera un produit net de chaque oke de soie de 120 piastres— $13\frac{2}{3}$  piastres. Ce calcul que nous venons de tracer approximativement, ne nous laisse aucun doute que nous pourrions à peine vivre, et notre tranquillité est absolument annulée.

Outre les griefs du tarif qui précèdent, nous ne mentionnons ici les différens impôts qui nous avaient été exigés ; et qu'ensuite l'autorité à Beyrout, qui ont voulu régler ces impôts en nous imposant une somme à payer à la trésorerie (qui serait divisée sur nous impartialement) à la place de la dîme, "Yurk" (droit volontaire), et le "Kharadj." Cependant, nous prenons la liberté d'observer, que la dîme n'a jamais été imposée sur notre montagne, qui ne consiste qu'en rochers et peu de terrain stérile et rocailleux, dont nous nous sommes impossessés depuis une époque très reculée ; et il ne faut pas la considérer comme les autres plaines fertiles qui existent dans l'empire appartenant au Gouvernement, qui peut les imposer ce qui lui semble, tandis que cette montagne n'a payé qu'un simple "Miri" (tribut gouvernemental).

Quant au Yurk susdit, il est bien connu que l'insurrection du Mont Liban contre le Gouvernement Egyptien était principalement contre le Ferdé (imposition égale au Yurk) et les autres impositions tellement oppressives, unies à la conscription, qui nous étaient devenues insupportables, et nous nous sommes soulevés contre ce dernier Gouvernement ; et confidant dans la bonté et la miséricorde de notre Souverain le Sultan, sur une telle occasion nous avons exposé notre sang dans les batailles, outre l'abus sur nos femmes d'avoir été dérobées et pillées, notre propriété dégatée, nos maisons brûlées, notre clergé déridé et massacré, et notre culte religieux avili et injurié.

Quant au Kharadj (droit de capitation), ceci fut imposé aux Chrétiens dans l'Empire Ottoman, pour la protection de leur vie, honneur et propriété ; mais, quant à nous, habitans du Liban, nous n'avons jamais dérangé le Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte pour notre garantie des susdites craintes, mais, au contraire, il a été inmanquablement notre usage de nous protéger des injures, et garantir notre pays ainsi que les provinces environnantes, et de soumettre les habitans de ces dernières lorsqu'ils étaient désobéissans aux ordres du Sultan, etc. Et par cette même raison, les Empereurs Ottomans n'ont jamais exigé ce droit de capitation de nous ; et on peut facilement s'assurer de ce que nous avançons en se référant aux archives des affaires financières.

Si on prend en considération notre exposition, et on persisterait à nous aggraver de cette manière, qui nous est absolument insupportable, et en quelques années ce système nous ruinerait, on ne pourra point nous reprocher, si nous nous rappellerons avec raison du dernier gouvernement.

Nous venons maintenant chaudement implorer la miséricorde de la Sublime Porte, afin qu'elle nous regarde avec son œil de bienveillance et nous fasse avoir notre tranquillité, qui ne sera pas garantie qu'en nous exemptant du droit du tarif totalement sur l'importation et l'exportation de nos produits, soie, huile, etc., et les articles en céréales que nous importons pour notre subsistance dans les différens ports et villes de la Syrie. Et nous ne pouvons supporter aucune imposition excepté ce que nous payions au Sultan dans le tems passé.

Nous nous flattons toujours d'être indemnifiés par la générosité de la Sublime Porte, et son honneur impérial, de nos services militaires que nous avons exercés en faveur de sa cause avec un dévouement remarquable, en exposant notre sang et tout ce qui nous est cher, et que nous avons rempli sa volonté pour lui plaire ; et jouir par conséquent de ses promesses formelles, dont nous avons été flattés par ses représentans et ceux des Puissances Alliées qui nous ont honorés, c'est-à-dire par son Excellence Selim Pacha, Mahomed Izzet Pacha, son Excellence l'Amiral Stopford, Commodore Napier et Mr. R. Wood, verbalement et par écrit, en nous assurant de la manière la plus explicite, que nous serions quittes de toutes les impositions financières pour quelques années, et après certaine époque on ne nous exigera que le Miri que nous payions à la Sublime Porte.

Nous attendions également d'être indemnifiés des pertes que nous avons souffertes dans le pillage et dégats de nos propriétés depuis la première insurrection contre le Gouvernement Egyptien jusqu'à notre livraison, ainsi que ceux qui ont été faits par les troupes Turques par ordre supérieur, et nous étions assurés d'être payés du montant, qui, d'après l'estimation des experts nommés à cette époque par ordre supérieur pour prendre note de ces dégats, de 400,000 tallaris : et le délai qu'on a employé à nous rembourser cette somme nous cause, des pertes nouvelles : et nous croyons qu'il est contraire à l'usage des Rois de ne pas indemnifier leurs sujets de ces dommages qui ont été faits par leurs ordres en tems de guerre, conformément aux réglemens de justice, et en vertu de quoi

nous prions que notre supplication soit écoutée. De cette manière nous continuerons à prier le Suprême d'éternaliser la puissance de votre empire très sublime, et d'éclater votre gloire, Excellence, et prolonger votre honneur.

(Signé) Vos Esclaves,  
Habitans du Mont Liban en général.  
Noblesse Chrétienne du Mont Liban.  
Noblesse Druse du Mont Liban.  
Les Emirs en général du Mont Liban.  
Et plusieurs autres personnes distinguées.  
[Avec leurs cachets respectifs.]

(Translation.)

**THE** joy of us, inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, your slaves, was inexpressible when we had succeeded through your powerful influence, and your sublime and majestic name, in defeating the Egyptian troops, and driving that oppressive Government from our hearths, and thus throwing off the heavy and despotic yoke of the Pasha of Egypt. And we thus had one of the greatest happinesses, that of returning under the mild Government of the Sublime Porte, whom may God protect and preserve victorious. And we have never ceased from that time repeating our prayers to the Supreme Being in favour of the complete victory of our Sovereign, the Sultan Abdul Medjid Khan, the protector of humanity, whose empire may God establish for ever!

Whilst your subjects were in the anxious expectation of being re-established in perfect tranquillity, and of enjoying your special favour, deserving the imperial honour of the Sublime Porte, as a reward for our arduous services, and for the sacrifices which we made [while fighting against the Egyptian Government] in conformity with the orders and wishes of our Sovereign, our expectations have turned out fallacious, and far different from what we expected from the goodness of the Sublime Porte. Injurious taxes have lately been imposed upon us, of which the most important, and the one most mischievous, is the "tariff," which burthens with exorbitant duties all the ports and cities of the empire, and which are imposed by your orders on our country; and although our Sultan does not consider this measure of taxation as dangerous to his empire, it is in its effect very ruinous for us; and this tariff will not be long in despoiling and destroying us. And it is not astonishing, that we should foresee all these dangers; and although this measure of the tariff, may be in itself useful for the general regulation of the prosperity of the people, it has for many evident reasons, an exceptional operation as regards our mountains.

As we must remark at the outset, that we, humble petitioners, do not live by commerce, nor by art, nor by any other industry; we have not even plains where we could grow our corn; all our property consists in an agriculture of a most difficult nature, in the cultivation of our lands, [stony and for the most part sterile,] in the planting of mulberries for the supply of our silk worms, the main branch of our resources, and lastly a small amount of oil.

We are then forced by our indispensable necessity to realize the value of these two articles in order to buy corn for our subsistence, and in these transactions, as your Highness will easily collect, we are forced on the one hand to sell our produce often at a low price, and on the other to buy grain at a high price; and consequently, the speculators who buy our silk and oil, will wish to deduct from the price of these articles the duties imposed by the tariff, and the sellers of grain will desire to charge the duties on it, as we have just experienced, in our dealings since the establishment of the new tariff, that the fifth part of our goods is taken away: we will mention an example which we have just experienced; in paying the 12 per cent. on our silks, and adding 10 per cent., [taken by the Customs,] an oke of silk pays 16 piastres in order to be sold at a price of 120 piastres; and on the other hand, before the tariff was enforced, we were in the habit of buying in exchange for an oke of silk or 120 piastres, ten rubes of corn, and since the tariff has existed, we only get eight rubes, so that they make us pay the fifth of our goods, which is 20 per cent. In doubling this transaction, we

pay 40 piastres for an oke of silk, and we must also deduct the third part of the produce of our lands as the expence of the care of the silk-worms, which is  $26\frac{2}{3}$  piastres per oke; expence of agricultural labour, 40 piastres: there will remain to us on each oke of silk at 120 piastres, a net produce of  $13\frac{2}{3}$  piastres. This calculation which we have thus made by approximation, leaves us but little room to doubt that we shall be scarcely able to live, and our tranquillity is absolutely destroyed. In addition to the above evils of the tariff, we make no mention here of the different taxes which have been exacted from us, and that afterwards the authorities at Beyrout desired to regulate these taxes by imposing upon us a sum to be paid into the treasury [which should be impartially divided amongst us] in place of the tithe, "Yuruk," [voluntary tax,] and the "Kharadj." Nevertheless, we take the liberty of observing, that the tithe has never been imposed in our Mountain, which only consists of rocks and some barren and stony lands of which we possessed ourselves in ages a long time back; and this must not be considered in the same light as the other fertile plains which exist in the empire belonging to the government, which can levy upon them as much as seems good to it, whilst this Mountain has only paid a simple "Miri," [government tribute].

As regards the said Yuruk, it is well known that the insurrection of Mount Lebanon against the Egyptian Government was principally against the Ferdé, [a tax equal to the Yuruk,] and the other equally oppressive imposts, together with the conscription, which had become insupportable, and we rose against that Government: and trusting in the goodness and pity of our Sovereign the Sultan upon that occasion we spilt our blood in battle, besides the abuse of our women having been robbed and plundered, our property destroyed, our houses burnt, our clergy laughed at and massacred, and our religion vilified and slandered.

As regards the Kharadj, [capitation tax,] this was imposed upon the Christians in the Ottoman Empire in consideration of the protection of life, honour, and property; but as for us, inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, we have never disturbed the government of the Sublime Porte to guarantee us from the aforesaid fears, but on the contrary it has been our invariable custom to protect ourselves from injury, and to guarantee our country as well as the neighbouring provinces, and to force the inhabitants of these last to submit when they were disobedient to the Sultan's orders, &c. And for these same reasons the Ottoman Emperors have never exacted this capitation tax from us; and the truth of what we assert can easily be proved by a reference to the financial archives.

If our statement is taken into consideration, and it is still determined to oppress us in a manner which is insupportable to us, and this system would ruin us in a few years, we cannot be reproached if we call to our recollection, and with reason, the late Government.

We now anxiously implore the pity of the Sublime Porte, that she may look upon us with a benevolent eye, and grant us repose, which will only be secured by exempting us entirely from the tariff on the importation and exportation of our produce, silk, oil, &c., and on the articles of the nature of grain, which we import for our subsistence into the different ports and towns of Syria: and we can endure no impost except that which we paid to the Sultan in past times.

We flatter ourselves, however, that we shall be rewarded by the generosity of the Sublime Porte, and Her Imperial honour, for our military services, which we have performed with a remarkable devotion in favour of her cause, exposing our own blood, and all that is dear to us, and fulfilling her will, in order to give her satisfaction; and further, that we shall accordingly enjoy the benefit of her formal promises with which we have been flattered by her representatives, and those of the Powers her Allies, that is to say, by his Excellency Selim Pasha, Mahomed Izzet Pasha, his Excellency Admiral Stopford, Commodore Napier, and Mr. R. Wood, who have honoured us by assuring us, both verbally and in writing, in the most explicit manner, that we should be free from all financial imposts for several years, and that after a certain period, the Miri, which we used to pay to the Sublime Porte, should be the only thing exacted from us.

We equally expected that we should be indemnified for the losses which we have suffered in the pillage and destruction of our properties since the first insurrection against the Egyptian Government until the moment of our deliverance, as well as those done by the Turkish soldiery by superior authority;

and we felt confident of being paid the amount, which, according to the estimate of the persons appointed at that time by superior authority to draw up an account of damages, amounted to 400,000 dollars; and the delay which has occurred in reimbursing that sum to us, causes us new losses; and we believe that it is contrary to the custom of kings not to indemnify their subjects for damages done to them in obedience to their orders in time of war, conformably with the rules of justice, and in virtue of which we pray that our supplication may be listened to. In this way we will continue to beseech the Supreme Being to make the power of your sublime Empire everlasting, to increase your Excellency's glory, and prolong your happiness.

(Signed) Your Slaves,  
Inhabitants of Mount Lebanon in general,  
Christian Nobles of Mount Lebanon,  
Druse Nobles of Mount Lebanon,  
The Emirs, in general, of Mount Lebanon,  
And many other distinguished persons.

[With their respective seals.]

### No. 8.

*Colonel Rose, Captain Pring, and Mr. Consul Moore, to Viscount Palmerston.—*  
(Received August 9.)

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, June 2, 1841.*

SELIM PASHA informed us, that he was anxious to obtain our advice, as to the petition from the meeting at Ainoob, which he had been requested by the petitioners to forward to the Prime Minister at Constantinople. We felt that it would be the wish of Her Majesty's Government, that we should counsel his Excellency in this matter, because the present state of feeling in the Mountain is chiefly to be attributed to the proposed introduction of the Tariff, which is framed in a Treaty concluded between Her Majesty's Government and the Sublime Porte; and because this feeling is aggravated by the misrepresentations and intrigues of secret agents.

We felt also that, mainly owing to our representation, the Turkish Government in this country had done much to meet the wishes of the people; and that if the latter had been left to themselves, there was every reason to hope that the causes of difference might have been removed, more especially as the Turkish authorities had agreed to suspend the operation of all the proposed taxes, till instructions should have been received from Constantinople, in answer to the representations which they had made, of the hostility created in Syria by their proposed introduction. Having then agreed to give our advice to the Seraskier, we attentively considered the petition, and came to the conclusion, that it was deficient in three essential qualities, because,—

1. The petition states, that it is addressed to the Prime Minister of the Sublime Porte, by the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon assembled at Ainoob; and yet, although these inhabitants so assembled, were convoked and presided by the Prince of Mount Lebanon, the Emir Beshir, yet their petition was not forwarded through, or by, his Highness, nor did it receive the sanction of his signature.

2. The petition rests on false grounds; because it assumes that the taxes were demanded from, whereas they were only proposed to, the inhabitants of the Mountain.

3. The language of the petitioners is such as no subject should use towards a sovereign; and, above all, towards one who has given so many proofs of his desire to be the best friend, as well as the ruler of his people.

4. There is every reason to believe, that the sentiments contained in the petition do not proceed from the hearts of the people of the Lebanon; but that they have rather been instilled into them by wicked and designing agents, who,



for their own ends, seek to risk a nation's happiness, and to sow discord between a sovereign and his people.

The Seraskier approved the view which we had taken of the petition, as detailed in the four points. We then stated that it would be advisable, that his Excellency should write a letter to the Emir Beshir, in which his Excellency acknowledged the right of the subject to petition the sovereign, but states his inability to forward the one in question, for the reasons which we had set forth. The letter of course comes from his Excellency, as his own act. We venture to anticipate good results from this mode of proceeding; it will probably have the effect of dividing the Mountaineers, and enable those who had been instigated to go further than they wished, to draw back; and the firm yet calm tone of the letter will dispel the idea which the inhabitants of the Mountain appear to entertain, that no opposition can be offered to any demand which they may choose to advance.

### No. 9.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 9.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, June 2, 1841.*

INCLOSED I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of the engagement on the subject of taxation, entered into by his Highness the Emir Beshir, which document was not forwarded with my despatch of May 22, to which it belonged.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HUGH ROSE

### Inclosure in No. 9.

*Translation of the Engagement on the subject of Taxation, entered into by his Highness the Emir Beshir Shehab, Governor of the Lebanon.*

*May 3, 1841.*

WE, Prince and Governor of Mount Lebanon and its dependencies, nominated by our Sovereign the Sultan, by virtue of our aforesaid functions, have agreed that the inhabitants of this Mountain and its dependencies, shall pay, as the amount of all imposts, taxes, and every other description of claim on the financial revenue, which, in token of their submission, they are bound to contribute to the treasury of the Sublime Porte, the sum of 3,500 purses, each of the value of 500 piastres, which sum will cover all the demands and imposts that His Imperial Majesty shall require; and, beyond this amount, nothing shall be demanded or exacted from the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon.

The above-named sum will be raised and distributed under the supervision of the members of the municipal council (who will be chosen from amongst the most loyal and able of the inhabitants), in order that the proportioning of the taxes may be made with justice and equity. As soon as this financial arrangement shall have been carried into effect, we shall, without delay, cause the sum to be levied, to be raised after the harvest. From this amount will be deducted the sum of 2,200 purses, for the expenses of the administration of Mount Lebanon and its government; that is to say, our own salary, and those of the other public officers and functionaries, the calculation of which was made at the meeting of the Musteshar Effendi.

The net sum, which will be paid into the Sultan's treasury, will, therefore, amount to 1300 purses, or 650,000 piastres; and we engage to pay that sum into the imperial treasury in three instalments, namely, in the months of August, September, and October, a third part of the amount each month.



We have promised to the above-named inhabitants of Lebanon, &c., that they will not be called upon to pay any tax upon the corn which they may grow or import from the plains of Bekaa, Balbec, and B'lad Bechara (South of Lebanon); and that no obstacle or hindrance will exist on the part of the Government, to the transit of cereals; nor any tax, such as is claimed by the new Tariff, or other imposts whatever, shall be levied on them, except such as affect the proprietors and producers by the existing laws of the Sublime Porte.

In the event of the inhabitants of the Lebanon having occasion to import corn from districts further removed than those above specified, each family, the necessity established, shall be permitted to import 7 kilos. The importers will be furnished with a *teskére*, which shall declare that this quantity is required for their own consumption, and not for the purposes of traffic, and consequently ought not to pay any tax.

To this effect, we have drawn up this obligatory act, and bind ourselves to carry it into execution.

(Signed) BESHIR SHEHAB.

No. 10.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston. — (Received August 5.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, June 6, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that the party in this country which have assumed an unfriendly attitude towards the Turkish Government, have been using great exertions to induce the Druses to make common cause with them. Hitherto they have only succeeded to the extent of obtaining the signature of the leading Druses of the Lebanon to the petition addressed by the meeting of Ainoob to the Turkish Government at Constantinople. The Druses refused to sign any of the three petitions to the Governments of Great Britain, Austria, or France, for the reasons which I had the honor to state. I felt, however, that the public quiet in this country rested on such precarious grounds, that it was not possible to determine whether any imprudent act of the Turkish Government or any ill-timed event might not commit the Druses, and cause them, even in opposition to their policy, and to their wishes, to connect themselves with the malcontents. Influenced by these considerations, and persuaded that if revolt once broke out, and the passions of this warlike people were once roused, it would probably be impossible to restore tranquillity, or effect the desirable measure of establishing friendly relations with the Druses, I made a communication to two or three of their leading people at Deir-el-Kammar.

My messenger arrived most opportunely at Deir-el-Kammar, which is the head-quarters of the Druses of the Lebanon, for the next day deputies came there from the Druses of the Wadi-el-Teen, and of the Anti-Lebanon, bearing the intelligence that the Pasha Nejib, of Damascus, had sent persons to collect the taxes, but that they, the Druses, were determined to resist their payment as they considered them exorbitant; and the Druse deputies of the Anti-Lebanon were directed to solicit the aid and co-operation of their brethren of the Lebanon in opposing, with force, the demands of Nejib Pasha, but these latter having learnt my wishes, sent answer to the Druses of the Anti-Lebanon, that they had just been informed by me, that it was the anxious wish of Her Majesty's Government that the Syrians should be peaceable and loyal subjects of the Sultan; and in communicating to them the rest of my message, the Druses of the Lebanon informed those of the Anti-Lebanon, that they had determined to be guided wholly by it, and to preserve, as far as in them lay, tranquillity and good order in the country; and they enjoined the Anti-Lebanites to follow their example, and not to offer opposition to Nejib Pasha. I am happy to be able to inform your Lordship that these injunctions of the 'Akai,' or 'The Enlightened' of the Druses of Deir-el-Kammar were obeyed by their countrymen of the Anti-Lebanon, for Mr. Thomson and Mr. Assad passed shortly afterwards through Deir-el-Kammar, and found the Druses of that place assembled to receive messengers from the

Anti-Lebanon, who brought the answer from the Druses of that district, that they had agreed to follow exactly the advice of the Druses of the Lebanon, and to obey their instructions, and that, therefore, they had abstained from hostilities against Nejib Pasha.

No. 11.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 9.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, June 22, 1841.*

I HAVE the honor to inform your Lordship, that the Emir Haidar having expressed a wish to see Mr. Moore and myself, we met his Excellency, by appointment, at Beit Mereh, three leagues off, in the mountains, on the 7th instant.

The Emir is a Maronite, about fifty-two years of age; his generosity and manners have made him popular, and his talent, and reputation for probity, have gained for him a more considerable share of respect than has fallen to the lot of any other person in the Mountain. Ibrahim Pasha and the Ex Emir Beshir were well aware of his influence; and the former having failed last year in bringing him over to his party, the latter, in August last, betrayed him into the hands of Mehemet Ali, who sent him a prisoner with other influential persons from the Mountain, to Sennaar.

His Excellency stated that he was of the first family in the Mountain, his ancestry being of much older date than that of the Shehab, the Emir Beshir's family; that his fortune had been dissipated by the exactions of Ibrahim Pasha, but that he had never sought to repair it by accepting advantageous offers, which had come from the enemies of his country. He then mentioned his banishment, and the seizure of the whole of the harvest on his property, by the ex-Emir Beshir, and asked us whether we could doubt the good faith of one who must view the return of either Mehemet Ali, or of the ex-Emir Beshir, as the signal of his ruin? The Emir added, that he had never aspired to the sovereignty of the Lebanon, but that he could not help feeling that his position in the country was not what it ought to be; that, although he could bring eight thousand men into the field, and command public opinion to a great extent in the Mountain, yet, that in fact he was a cipher, not being vested with any power, or authority from the Government. He observed, that there was no order in the country; that the laws were not obeyed; and that the persons who formerly caused them to be respected were now deprived of the power to do so. I suppose he alluded to the proposed formation of the Divan. He added, that the people must be governed by their gentry, the Sheiks, and their nobility, the Emirs.

It appeared very desirable, to Mr. Moore and myself, to secure the good offices of so influential a person as the Emir Haidar, in the present state of affairs, more particularly as the age and infirmities of the Emir Beshir circumscribe his powers of action, a fact to which the Emir Haidar alluded very guardedly. His Highness might have done a great deal in inducing the meeting at Ainoob to frame a more moderate and respectful petition to the Porte, but after stating to the deputies the taxes which were proposed by the Turkish Authorities, and asking them whether they intended to be obedient, or disobedient, he retired under the shade of a tree, and for six days allowed the meeting to do very much what they liked. We asked the Emir Haidar whether his appointment to be Lieutenant of the Mountain, or of its Christian population under the Emir Beshir, might not be productive of good? He seemed much pleased with the proposition, and we promised to suggest it to the Emir Beshir, and to the Seraskier. This arrangement is the more fitting, because the Emir Beshir, with a view of securing the allegiance of the Druses, is about to give a similar appointment over them to their Chief, Sheik Naaman, the rich and powerful representative of the royal family, the Sheiks Beshir.

He spoke of the petition of the meeting of Ainoob as most improper, and approved highly of the letter which the Seraskier wrote to the Emir Beshir, and in which he declined to forward the petition to the Porte. The Emir besides, pledged himself to do his utmost to allay the irritation, and restore quiet among his countrymen. Mr. Moore and myself have since this introduced the Emir Haidar to the Seraskier, Selim Pasha, and represented to his Excellency

the advantages of his appointment as Lieutenant to the Emir Beshir. Selim Pasha is quite alive to the failings of his Highness, and approves of his being assisted in the duties of his Government by the Emir Haidar. The Emir Beshir himself also sanctions the arrangement. The Emir Haidar proposed that in lieu of all salary, the Turkish Government should cede him the village and property of Kurat, near Tripoli; it is worth about one hundred thousand piastres a year, and was given by the Sultan Mahmoud to the ex-Emir Beshir, who paid a quit rent for it; this the Emir Haidar is also willing to pay. Both the Seraskier and the Emir Beshir seem willing to grant this property to the Emir Haidar, and if they sanction this arrangement, the Turkish Ministry will, I believe, throw no difficulties in the way of its completion.

I venture to hope that the appointment of the Emir Haidar, which will, I trust, strengthen both the Government of the Sultan and of the Emir Beshir, in Lebanon, may receive your Lordship's approbation.

## No. 12.

*Viscount Palmerston to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, August 9, 1841.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 22nd of June, reporting the communications which you have had with the Maronite Emir Haidar, and the suggestions which you have offered to Selim Pasha and to the Emir Beshir, in favour of the appointment of the Emir Haidar to be lieutenant to the Emir Beshir; and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve what you have done in this matter.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

## No. 13.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 5.)*

My Lord.

*Beyrout, June 28, 1841.*

I HAVE the honor to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch written by me to Viscount Ponsonby on the the 25th instant, together with a copy of an inclosure in that despatch.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Ponsonby.*

Your Excellency,

*Beyrout, June 25, 1841.*

I HAVE the honor to inclose to your Lordship a copy of a joint letter written by Captain Waldegrave of Her Majesty's ship "Revenge," Captain Pring, of Her Majesty's ship "Inconstant," Mr. Moore, and myself.

Mr. Moore's application to the Seraskier Selim Pasha, for the liberation of the Christian after his second trial failed, and Mr. Moore having stated this to me, I communicated the same to Captain Waldegrave and Captain Pring, on which the joint letter was written to his Excellency; and I am happy to inform your Lordship that this day the Christian was liberated.

In a conversation which Mr. Moore and myself had yesterday with Selim Pasha and Mustapha Pasha, the son of the Seraskier at Constantinople, on this subject, neither of these officers met directly the point that we put, that the conduct of the Mufti was in direct opposition to the orders of the Sultan.

Mustapha Pasha said that the law which rejected Christian evidence was of the greatest antiquity.

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Selim Pasha said that the case ought to have been submitted to his jurisdiction; but both these officers seem to think that Christian evidence against a Mahometan could not be received before the Divan.

I venture therefore to suggest to your Lordship, that it would be most advisable, that instructions should be sent on this point, to the Turkish authorities in this country, more particularly when the present state of feeling in Syria is considered.

The repetition of such a wrong as the joint letter details, might be productive of results which none would deplore more than the Turkish Government.

Mr. Moore states that some of the Mountaineers were determined to seize a Turk, and kill him, in revenge for the conduct pursued towards the Christian by the Turkish authorities, but that he (Mr. Moore) induced them by his representations, to desist from such an act.

I trust that the liberation of the Christian may prevent any further ebullition.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

*Joint Letter from Captain Waldegrave, Captain Pring, Colonel Rose, and Mr. Moore, to Selim Pasha.*

Excellency,

*Beyrout, June 22, 1841.*

WE, the undersigned, have, the honour to represent to your Excellency, that a Mahometan and a Rayah, both of this town, had a dispute, which was brought before the Divan; each party brought witnesses to support their respective cases, but the Mufti declared that he would not receive or listen to the evidence of Christians against Mahometans; the evidences of the Mussulman, who were all Mussulmans, were therefore received, and the evidences of the Christian, who were all Christians, were rejected unheard.

The Christian, who declared that he not only was blameless, but that he had been wronged by his antagonist,—facts which he stated his evidence could have proved,—was sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment, from which he was released by your Excellency, in consequence of a representation from Mr. Moore, shewing the injustice of the trial.

We are glad to hear that your Excellency stated, that the opinion of the Mufti, with respect to the inadmissibility of Christian evidence in Turkish courts of justice, was wrong: an opinion most satisfactorily confirmed by that of Osman Captan, who commands the Turkish ships-of-war now lying here, who states that the evidence of Christians is invariably received in the Divan at Constantinople, whose sittings the gallant officer attended offic'ally.

We have since learnt, with deep regret, that on your Excellency ordering a fresh trial of the above-mentioned Christian, before the Divan, in order that his evidences might be heard, the Mufti again declared the law forbid him to receive the evidence of Christians, and that the Divan of which he is a member, in consequence of his declaration, again rejected the Christian evidence.

The Rayah was sentenced to a severer punishment than before, for, in addition to the thirty days' imprisonment, he was sentenced to be chained.

We beg to state, that we protest energetically against the declaration of the Mufti, and against the trial of the Rayah, which was an outrage on common sense, and a mockery of justice, for the following reasons:—

1. Because the declaration of the Mufti, and his acts, are in direct opposition to, and in contravention of, the will and orders of his Sovereign the Sultan, as proclaimed in the Hatti-Sheriff, published at Gulhané, 1838, the reading of which Her Majesty's servants were officially invited by your Excellency to hear in April last.

2. Because, if the exposition of the law by the Mufti be true, if this, his opinion of the law, is to be followed and acted on, the Christians of Syria would be placed out of the pale of justice; their persons would be exposed to aggression and to assassination without a hope of redress; the honour of their wives and daughters—in short all that is dear to, or esteemed by man, would be only held

at the caprice of the wicked and evil disposed; for we earnestly beg to represent to your Excellency, that the legal opinion of the Mufti encourages the continuation of the unruly and disorderly member of the Mussulman community, (and the unruly and disorderly exist in all communities,) to commit aggression on the unprotected Rayah, whom his opinion deprives of that which, in all lands and in all nations of the world, has ever been considered the best safeguard and protection of an honest man, when he is wronged,—the testimony of an honest man; for the head of their law has declared in open court, that the evidence of a Christian, no matter how virtuous or respected he may be, is unavailing against that of a Mussulman, disgraced though he be by the commission of the most revolting crimes; for the same reason, the Syrian Christians may be made the helpless victims of insult, pillage, and murder, for they are Christians, and the scales in the hands of justice are not balanced for them.

3. Because it is the anxious wish of Her Majesty's Government, that all classes of the Syrian population should be in full possession of the enjoyment of complete security for their persons, and of an impartial administration of justice; and we know therefore, that Her Majesty's Government will hear with indignation the declaration of the chief Turkish law officer, which will deprive the Syrians of the possibility of enjoying either the one or the other of these blessings, and reduce them to the condition of slaves, whom the law has never protected, and justice never befriended.

We, Her Majesty's servants, are most desirous that the Syrians should be loyal and faithful subjects of the Porte, and we have proved it repeatedly by our acts, but the conduct of the Mufti is of itself sufficient to create revolt, even in the most peaceable and well-organized State.

In conclusion, we, the undersigned, most respectfully request your Excellency to inform us whether it is your intention that the gracious dispositions and orders of His Imperial Highness the Sultan, and his instructions, explaining and amplifying the Hatti-Sheriff as the opinion of the Mufti of Beyrout, should guide the administration of justice in this country.

We have, &c.,  
(Signed) W. WALDEGRAVE,  
DAN. PRING, *Capt. R.N.*  
HUGH ROSE,  
N. MOORE.

#### No. 14.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 5.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, June 29, 1841,*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that the Lebanon is quiet: but accounts have been received, which state that the Bedouins in the neighbourhood of Gaza, Hebron, and the adjoining countries, have shown a most unruly spirit, and have rendered the communications and travelling in those districts unsafe.

Complaints are made throughout Syria of the bigotry, and, in many cases, of the tyrannical treatment of Christians by Mussulmans, and of the inability or unwillingness of the local authorities to preserve order or check oppression. I have prepared a report on the state of the country for your Lordship; but I do not send it by the "Revenge," which takes this despatch, because her arrival at Corfu, at this time of year, is most uncertain.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

#### No. 15.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)*

My Lord,

*Gazir, July 14, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on the 12th instant a Turkish Sugh Bolagasi, Adjutant-Major, brother of Ali Bey, Military Governor of Beyrout and President of the Council, was shot at, shortly after sunset, by

some persons concealed by rocks at the Pass of Shunujah, about three hours from Beyrout, as he was proceeding to Damascus with a post-boy; the latter escaped with a slight wound, but the officer received three wounds in the back from slugs, and was brought back to Beyrout next morning. The object of his assailants does not appear to have been to rob the officer; and this circumstance, and the state of feeling subsisting at present between the mountaineers and the Turks, has given more importance to this outrage than it would otherwise have had.

There are various opinions as to who were the perpetrators of the outrage; some state that they were persons who wished to bring to light the incapacity of the Emir Beshir, and his inability to maintain order in the country.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HUGH ROSE.

No. 16.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)*

(Extract.)

*Gazir, July 15, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that M. Steindl, third Dragoman of the Austrian Embassy at Constantinople, arrived here in the beginning of last month in an Austrian brig of war. He was sent by the Baron de Stürmer to deliver to the Patriarch of the Maronite population of the Lebanon, the sum of 900,555 piastres, which sum had been collected in the Austrian States by subscription, for the benefit of, and to indemnify the Catholic population of the Lebanon for the losses which it had sustained during the insurrection of last year; part of it is also to be applied to the repair of the convents which had suffered damage from the excesses of the Egyptian troops. The disposal of this large sum of money is to be left to the Patriarch, assisted by his two Vicars, the Bishops Peter and Paul.

Two days after his arrival, M. Steindl waited on the Patriarch, and informed his Eminence, that Baron Stürmer had directed him to deliver this money, a subscription from the Austrian States, to which the Emperor of Austria had also contributed, to the Patriarch, for the purpose which I have above stated, and that the Sublime Porte had given its sanction to this proceeding.

M. Steindl states, that a further donation of two or three hundred thousand piastres from the Austrian States will arrive ere long, which will be applied to the same purposes as the first subscription.

No. 17.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)*

(Extract.)

*Gazir, July 23, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that Mr. Wood wrote from Constantinople to the Emir Abdallah, Padre Arsenius, and other influential persons in the Mountain, that the Turkish Government had given orders to the Defterdar, who had lately arrived here, to pay the rewards to the persons to whom they had been promised by the Turkish Government, for the services which they had rendered last year to the Sultan in the Syrian insurrection. Padre Arsenius, and other persons on the part of the mountaineers, waited on the Defterdar to claim payment of the promised rewards, when his Excellency stated, that he had received no directions as to, nor did know any thing of, such rewards. The claimants were exceedingly displeased and disappointed at this announcement, and Padre Arsenius, who is a favourite of the Patriarch's, one of the two judges of the Lebanon, and a person of considerable influence, addressed a letter to Mr. Moore and myself, complaining of the conduct of the Defterdar, and stating all the bad effects which such a breach of faith as the non-payment of the rewards would produce; and he added, that he earnestly requested us, the servants of Her Majesty's Government, to obtain from the Defterdar an acknowledgment of their claim, and, if possible, a part payment of it; for he observed,

that the services for which the rewards were granted, had been rendered more from confidence in, and attachment to, the British, than to the Ottoman Government, and that Mr. Wood, a servant of the British Government, had guaranteed this payment to the mountaineers. We felt the force of their remarks, and, with Captain Pring, made a personal application on the 21st instant, to the Defterdar, who acknowledged the debt, but said that he had no money, and that the troops were eight months in arrears. I observed, that this statement of his Excellency that he knew nothing about the claims, had produced a very injurious impression amongst the mountains, as to the good faith of the Ottoman Government, and of an agent of Her Majesty's Government, Mr. Wood. The Defterdar admitted the force of our arguments, but declared, that there really was no money in the treasury. We then reduced our application to the payment of Padre Arsenius's claim of 15,000 piastres; but we failed in obtaining this. I was anxious to obtain for the mountaineers an acknowledgment of their claims. I therefore wrote to the Seraskier, saying that I was most anxious for the credit of my own Government, that some portion of the reward, no matter how small, should be paid, in order to do away with the impression which had been produced by the Defterdar, that the Turkish Government did not intend to pay that which had been promised, and that the payment of only 5000 piastres to Padre Arsenius would effect this. His Excellency was good enough to send me a messenger with an answer, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and 5000 piastres, which I paid the same day to Padre Arsenius, to his great satisfaction.

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Inclosure in No. 17.

*Selim Pasha to Colonel Rose.*

(Translation.)

*Beyrout, July 20, 1841.*

The most illustrious of the Christian nation, our dear friend and respected companion, Colonel Rose.

AFTER the assurances of our constant affection and solicitude for you, we acquaint you that we have received your clear letter, in which you renew your request for the money for Father Arsenius, and we understand your meaning; but you know that our treasury has not even money for the most urgent calls; but, from the singular esteem and regard which we entertain for you, we have found 5,000 piastres which we send to you to pay Father Arsenius. We expect money very soon from Constantinople, when we will pay the remainder of the claimants.

(Signed)

SELM PASHA.

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No. 18.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)*

My Lord,

*Gazir, July 23, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Custom-house Officer at Djouni, a Christian, has been displaced, and that a Turk has been appointed in his stead; the latter arrived at Djouni, about two miles from here, on the 18th instant, with a party of twenty-five soldiers and an officer, for the purpose of collecting the tariff. The next day they seized three camels loaded with three cantars of tobacco, demanding, according to the tariff, twelve per cent. on it. The camel-drivers refused to pay the tax; and they, with the camels and their loads, were sent as seizures into Beyrout.

Padre Arsenius, one of the two judges of the Lebanon, the Prince Abdallah, and other respectable inhabitants of the neighbourhood, came to Mr. Moore and myself and represented very strongly to us the fatal consequences which were to be apprehended from the mode of proceeding of the Custom-House Officer, and the arrival of the detachment to enforce the collection of the tariff. They



stated that when the camels were seized, the young men of Djouni were on the point of rescuing them, but that they were prevented from so doing by some of the older inhabitants; they added, that from their knowledge of the feeling of the people, the Turkish detachment would, if it were not removed, be attacked at night, from what they heard, the next night, by a band of mountaineers, and that they would either be disarmed and sent back to Beyrout, or massacred.

I was fully aware of the certainty of the occurrence of such a casualty, and that a general rise of the Maronites would be consequent on it. In my despatch of the 3rd of May, I had the honour to state to your Lordship, that I did not apprehend a collision between the Turks and the mountaineers, unless the former should march troops into the Lebanon to enforce the payment of the taxes. That contingency had now arrived, and circumstances had occurred since the writing of that despatch, which rendered the fulfilment of my predictions still more probable, the intolerant conduct of the Turkish Authorities on the one, and the attempted assassination of a Turkish officer by mountaineers on the other hand, which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch of the 14th July, having considerably increased the hostile feelings on both sides.

I knew Selim Pasha's character, and that, should the detachment at Djouni be attacked, he would probably in his first anger send down a Turkish frigate, and, under protection of her guns, burn Djouni, or some of the neighbouring villages; and I was aware, that such an act once committed, the peace of the country which we had been so unceasingly labouring to preserve, would be sacrificed. Mr. Moore being of the same opinion, we invited Captain Pring, of Her Majesty's ship "Inconstant," to make a joint representation to the Seraskier, having first sent a message to the Sheiks and heads of the surrounding villages, on no account whatever to let a man stir from their houses against the Turkish soldiers, for that if they did so, and one of these men were hurt, we would not use our influence with the Seraskier to recall the detachment. We received an assurance from the people that they would be perfectly quiet.

On the 21st instant, Captain Pring, Mr. Moore, and myself, waited on the Seraskier, and represented to him all the bad effects which were likely to ensue from the presence of the detachment at Djouni, and from the attempt to collect the Tariff, against which, in its present form, the Mountaineers with arms in their hands, were united to a man. We dwelt on the fact that Viscount Ponsonby had informed Mr. Moore and myself, that an arrangement of Syrian affairs had been effected at Constantinople, which would grant to the Syrians all which they had a right to expect; that a modification therefore of the Tariff, the unpopularity of which had been brought to his Lordship's notice, and a satisfactory arrangement on the subject of the taxation, was to be anticipated, more especially as his Lordship was aware that promises had been made by the Sultan's officers to the inhabitants of the very province in which it was now intended to enforce the payment of the Tariff, to the effect that they should be exempted from the payment of all taxes for three years. We observed, that the Austrian steamer which was to arrive in a few days, would probably bring the intelligence of the conclusion of these arrangements, and that, such being the case, we appealed to the Seraskier whether it would be advisable, on the very spot where the much talked of promises to the Lebanites had been made, to incur the certainty of a collision by enforcing the payment of the Tariff with twenty-five men, a force so small, that even the least courageous of the irritated Mountaineers would feel tempted to gratify their hostile feelings by attacking them. We added, that blood once spilt in an affray between the troops of the Sultan and the people, disaffection would become revolt, and his Excellency would then lose all the credit, so justly his due, for having been the head of the Government which had brought the country through an alarming crisis, without the loss of a single life. The Seraskier answered, that he had received orders to collect the Tariff, but that if the Custom-House Officers had seized the camels, as they were going from one town to another, they had done wrong, and that he would give strict orders to them on the subject, and further, that they were to molest no person. We added, that we were entirely persuaded of the rectitude of his Excellency's intentions, and that our good feeling towards him was not the least of the reasons which had induced us to come to him, but that so convinced were we of the certainty of a collision, and subsequent evils, if the detachment were permitted

to remain at Djouni, that we should consider it our duty to forward a statement of the circumstances to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with the least possible delay.

I saw that the Seraskier was giving way gradually, but that he did not like to do so entirely before the Defterdar and the Musteshar Effendi, who were unluckily present; I therefore turned the subject, by making an application to the Defterdar, the details of which are given in my despatch of the 23d July.

The evening of the same day, the Seraskier sent me a letter, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy to your Lordship, and in which I am glad to say his Excellency informs me that he had ordered the detachment to leave Djouni and return to Beyrout. The first part of the letter relates to the application to the Defterdar for the money for Padre Arsenius.

The fact of Selim Pasha's sending a party of 25 men to a village, 15 miles distant, and cut off by two rivers from the nearest military post, without even a horseman to go for assistance, to collect a tax in a mountainous district, the inhabitants of which, all armed, had pledged themselves not to pay that tax, and rather than do so, to have recourse to arms, will give your Lordship some idea of the talents of an officer, who is considered by the Turks as one of their best Generals, of his tact, and of his acquaintance with the feelings of the people.

This morning Bishop Paul Massad wrote a letter to Padre Arsenius, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy to your Lordship, conveying the thanks of the Patriarch and other persons, to Mr. Moore and myself, for the interest which we had shewn for the preservation of tranquillity.

I have, &c..  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

*Seraskier Selim Pasha to Colonel Rose.*

(Translation.)

*Beyrout, July 21, 1841.*

Most Illustrious amongst the Exalted, our Dear Friend,

WE make anxious inquiries after your health. Actuated by our friendship and affection for you, and our mutual esteem, we acquaint you that we have spoken to their Excellencies the Defterdar and the Musteshar, respecting the payment of the money to Father Arsenius, but as there are several who are to receive money also, if we were to pay the Father and not the others, it would not be advisable, and besides, the rest of the claimants would importune yourself and us also. A list of all those who are to receive money has been forwarded to Constantinople. We hope that the money for them will soon arrive; when it does, it shall be paid to them. Consequently you may give your word to the said Father, that his claim shall be satisfied; but as we have no money, we beg you to guarantee to Father Arsenius the payment of the money.

The soldiers in Djouni and the custom-house officer have been removed, in compliance with your request.

Always continue to write to us. Our affection for you requires you to do so.

(Signed) SELIM PASHA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

*The Right Reverend Bishop Paul Massad, Vicar of the Maronite Patriarch, to  
Father Arsenius.*

(Translation.)

*Massalita, July 23, 1841.*

MAY the Divine blessing and love visit you. I have with the sincerest pleasure received your letter of this date, and I thank God for the great zeal and

kindness which Colonel Rose and Mr. Consul Moore have shewn in causing the Turkish soldiers to be removed from Djouni. I have not failed to give publicity to this act of theirs, and his Eminence the Patriarch and every body else praise their solicitude for the maintenance of the peace, and the goodness of heart which has actuated them. I pray you to convey to them the sincere thanks of all parties ; their satisfaction is extreme. I have thought it my duty to write in these terms.

May the Divine Grace preserve you, &c.

(Signed)

PABLO MASSAD,  
*Patriarchal Vicar.*

### No. 19.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)*

(Extract.)

*Gazir, July 24, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that the reports of Her Majesty's Officers, and of well informed persons from the north of Syria, make it evident that its inhabitants are not well disposed towards the Ottoman Government, and that they feel no confidence in the mode by which its Officers govern the country, or administer justice. This feeling is produced very much by the same causes which have created disaffection in the Lebanon, an injudicious taxation, and the intolerance of the Turkish functionaries, on religious and other matters. But circumstances peculiar to the north have caused the discontent to be less general, and to be less distinctly expressed there, than in this part of the country. The majority of the population is Mahometan, and one of the causes of discontent, therefore, intolerance, is generally less felt ; and the difference of language, which impedes the transaction of business, and throws so much of it necessarily into the hands of generally a worthless class of persons, the interpreters, is an evil which diminishes towards the north, the use of the Turkish taking place of the Arabic language. In the Lebanon, secret agents, availing themselves of the peculiar circumstances which connected them with the Maronites, magnified every grievance for the purpose of producing revolt, but in the north, persons of this description have not made their appearance. The inhabitants of the north feel also the greatest relief from the absence of the large military force which Ibrahim Pasha concentrated there to defend, at the pass of Kulek Boghaz, the entrance into Syria, against the attack either of a Russian or Turkish force, and the exemption of the working population from the forced labour, both of men and animals, which the Egyptian General imposed on them in order to complete the extensive fortifications of that pass, and of other places connected with the defence of the north, is a benefit which the tillers of the ground, and the inhabitants at large, fully appreciate.

It is true that in the Lebanon the inhabitants were obliged to work the coal mines of Kornail, and artificers were sent from all parts of Syria to the fortifications, but still for the reasons I have stated, the forced labour in the north pressed far more heavily on the inhabitants than elsewhere ; in fact the labourers were in a worse condition than convicts, for the latter are fed and taken care of ; but with Ibrahim Pasha, it was a matter of indifference as to how many of the former fell victims to fatigue, want of food, and sickness ; he saved the half price of labour, for the labourers only received half wages, on which they could not live, and his requisition to the neighbouring Sheiks for a fresh supply of young men, made good the casualties.

The loss of life was consequently very great, and the injury done to agriculture and trade, by the constant drain of the working population, and of beasts of draught and burden, was most sensibly felt.

Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun, who visited the valley of the Orontes, informs me that he found the inhabitants industrious, and apparently contented and happy.

Major Wilbraham states that in the provinces north of Aleppo there appears to exist less discontent than elsewhere.

Major Boccheciampe, who is stationed at Aleppo, informs me "that the people of Aleppo are ill-minded; many of them regret the loss of the past Government, and they scruple not to talk openly of revolt. Assaad Pasha is an old man professing the ancient Mussulman customs, manners, and prepossessions; is ruled by two or three wicked men; he has neither physical or moral force to restrain the people." This officer further states that the Arab tribes of Deham had been plundering the country in the neighbourhood of Aleppo, and that the Pasha, finding he could not subdue them, had, through the mediation of Mr. Werry, established friendly relations with them, a circumstance of importance as regards the safe passage of the Indian mails from Beles to Aleppo. The chief Deham had been invested with the pelisse of office. Major Boccheciampe further says, "The discontented people of Aleppo have been about to rise in arms three days ago. The Sheriffs, who pretend that they are descended from Mahomet, had conspired to revolt, and had assembled for that purpose armed outside the town; the Governor, however, marched against them, and took 200 of them."

From all I can learn, the people, impoverished as they are by the exactions of Ibrahim Pasha, cannot pay the amount of taxes which the Pashas in the north have demanded from them; but in excuse of these officers, it must be said, that they do not appear to have received any definite instructions on the subject from Constantinople, or any plan for forming a system of taxation, except that of obtaining as much money as they could. The Pasha of Aleppo complained that he had sent seven tatars to Constantinople requesting instructions from his Government as to the taxes which he was to require from his pashalic, but that he had received no answer. His Excellency had accordingly framed a plan of taxation which did not evince his knowledge of the state of feeling, or of the resources of the inhabitants.

The travelling and communications between Damascus and Aleppo, and in several parts of the north, is unsafe; the roads are watched and infested by the Anzarees and wandering Arab tribes, who acknowledge no authority but the will of their leaders; they maintain themselves principally by plunder, and a sort of black mail which they levy on the villages and small towns. Major Wilbraham found it necessary to take an escort of cavalry for his protection, and thinks that respect for the British uniform, and the fear of resistance, alone saved him from the attack of the numerous marauding parties which he met on the road. Ahmed Bey, a nephew of the Seraskier Selim Pasha, has arrived at Beyrout; he travelled the whole way from Tarsus by land, having passed through Adana, Aleppo, Homs, Hamah, and Tripoli. The state of the roads induced him to take an escort of twenty men as far as Tripoli.

I am happy to say that my anticipations that there would be no armed outbreak in the Lebanon against the Sultan's authority have been justified; but amongst its Maronite population the feelings of disaffection and mistrust towards the Turkish Government, which were first called forth by the proposed taxes in April, are on the increase. This state of the public mind must be mainly attributed to the acts of injustice and of misconduct of the Turkish authorities towards Christians, and amongst the Maronites it may be traced also to the pecuniary embarrassments of the Ottoman Government, which have not permitted them to pay the promised indemnities to the Maronite convents and private property, which had been destroyed and injured during the revolt of last year, or the rewards to those who had distinguished themselves in re-establishing the rule of the Sultan. These sums amount to 1,200,000 piastres (12,000 pounds sterling); of this 600,000 are to be paid to the Patriarch for the repair of the convents, the damage done by the troops at Djouni and other parts; 400,000 piastres are to be given in rewards; and 200,000 to the inhabitants of Sidon. The only part of this money which has been paid, is the sum of 5,000 piastres which I obtained with much difficulty, as I had the honour to state to your Lordship in my despatch of the 23rd July.

Letters came from Mr. Wood from Constantinople by the Austrian steamer, addressed to the different claimants for money, in which they were informed by that gentleman, that the new Defterdar, who was sent from Constantinople to replace the Musteshar Effendi, who has been removed for misconduct, received orders to pay the claims. The holders accordingly presented themselves to his Excellency, when he informed them that he had received no orders from his Government to pay them, nor had he heard any thing on the subject, and even

if he had, he could not have done so, as he had no money. The answer of the Desterdar caused the greatest ill will and surprise in this part of the country for many reasons. His Excellency has since retracted what he said, as to not having heard any thing respecting the claims of the Lebanites, and their liquidation, an avowal which has placed in questionable light his veracity; but he has not removed the impression which he has created, of the want of good faith of his Government, amongst the Lebanites; nor can he restore the respect which every people should have for their rulers, but which, unfortunately, is daily becoming less and less on the part of the Syrian Christians towards the Turks. Thus, the inhabitants of this part of the country mix expressions of ridicule and contempt with those of dislike, when speaking of the Government here, declaring that they will publish the names of the Turks in every newspaper in Europe, as persons who will not pay their debts; that the late Musteshar Effendi was, they thought, as corrupt as a man could be, but that the present Desterdar who was sent to replace him, and do away with the effects of his misconduct, is worse, but still that they cannot hope for his removal, because, his successor, judging from the past, would in all probability be worse again, and they ask whether the Porte cannot find one honest man for Syria?

I have already had the honour to submit to your Lordship details of the intolerance of different Turkish Authorities, and of the ill usage of the Christians in Beyrout and other places. There are no newspapers in this country, but the inhabitants correspond a great deal, and the accounts of occurrences are transmitted from place to place with singular correctness by the scribes, or learned men of the place, from one part of Syria to another; and it is to be regretted that almost every post from the north, from Tripoli, Damascus, Zafed, El Hebron, Jaffa, Gaza, brings the news of occurrences which cause the Christians and Jews to think they cannot look for protection from the Turks as governors, or administrators of the law; and what is worse (for the law might be changed) that they cannot expect justice or fellow-feeling, from them, as men, when the conduct of the superior Turkish Authorities is such as has been described, and that too in Beyrout, which is the residence of all the European Consuls, and the rendezvous of a British naval and military force. The intolerance and oppression of the inferior Turkish Authorities in remote towns and villages, will not be matter of surprise, as little as that of the lower orders of Mahometans, who, adopting the tone of the higher classes, avail themselves only too frequently of opportunities for insulting the religion and the persons of the Christians, for which, as well as for graver offences against them, the four times repeated decision of the Mufti of Beyrout, that the evidence of Christians is not available against Mussulmans, appears to grant them immunity; thus disputes and assaults producing fresh heart-burnings, are almost of daily occurrence in the bazaars and other places, between Christians and Mussulmans; an influential young Sheik at the foot of Mount Lebanon, told me, not long since, that the Christians would no longer frequent the markets by twos and threes, but by hundreds. The attempted assassination of the Turkish officer by the mountaineers, which I had the honour to detail to your Lordship in my despatch of the 14th July, has unfortunately still more embittered the feeling existing between Turks and Christians.

The inhabitants of Beyrout and its neighbourhood, had scarcely recovered from the alarm which they felt at the punishment of a respectable Christian shopkeeper who was bastinadoed till he fainted (and the punishment was to have been renewed the next day), because in a moment of anger he had said some idle words to a Turk, his partner in trade, when news came from Damascus which proved that the Pasha of that province, and the Sultan's chief functionary in Syria, was emulating the Governor of Beyrout in intolerance and injustice towards the Christians, some particulars of which I have already had the honour to state to your Lordship in my despatch of the 4th May; and since that time the conduct of the Pasha has proved that his prohibition to Christians to wear the white turban was not merely, as many suppose, a proof of dotage of a narrow-minded and bigotted old man, but was the commencement of a systematic mode of proceeding of a clever and enthusiastic supporter of Islamism, who thought that he would best advance its interests by lowering the position, and diminishing the influence of the professors of other creeds; accordingly, he removed from office the Christians, and replaced them by Mussulmans, and, in

some instances, made the former exchange the office of a higher class, which they held, with those of a lower grade, held by the Mussulmans; I have the names of these persons. The Governor of Damascus, Ahmed Aga Yussuff, a Mussulman, who had shewn great bravery and devotion in the cause of the Sultan, and who, by his impartiality and probity, had won the esteem of all the Damascenes, has been removed to the very inferior post of Hamah.

The inhabitants of Hossn have enjoyed the privilege of being ruled by a Governor of their own persuasion for many hundred years; Nejib Pasha lost no time in removing and replacing the Christian functionary by a Mussulman, the Emir Shiblian; effect has rapidly followed cause in that act of injustice. A few days ago, the news arrived of a revolt in Hossn, which had displaced the Mussulman Governor. Nejib Pasha has called on the Emir Hangiar, a Mutuali Chief of irregular cavalry, to march against the ill-fated inhabitants of that town, and the blood of honest men is to be spilt, because an intrigue in Constantinople, or a well-timed bribe, has placed a man in power, whom the Sultan Mahomed dismissed from office on account of his bigotry. Justice is denied to Christians in the Divan, in which two, out of the twelve members, are Christians.

So intense is the bigotry of Nejib Pasha, that he refuses to see Christians in the morning, lest so inauspicious a sight should cause him some misfortune during the day; and so alive are his attendants to this peculiar feeling, that lately, when two young Christians were waiting in the morning, in the ante-room of the Pasha, in order to see him on business, they were desired by the attendants to withdraw, as the Pasha was coming out, and the sight of Christians at so early an hour would be painful to his Excellency. The appointment of Nejib Pasha has done more harm to the Sultan's cause in Syria than can be imagined: all ask, How can we believe that the Sultan is sincere in wishing the Hatti-Sheriff to be carried into execution, when two months' rule of his Lieutenant in Syria have made us regret even the iron rule of Ibrahim Pasha?

It is in this part of the Lebanon which is inhabited by the Maronites, that the disaffection towards the Turkish Government has assumed the most decided character, and one which will render reconciliation difficult; they have not suffered greater wrongs than any other class of Christians, but their union under one leader, and that leader a spiritual one—assisted as he is by his clergy, who are in possession of the secrets of every one of their flock—the concentration of the Maronites, armed as they are, and in a mountainous country, where every hill is a fortress, have rendered them bolder in asserting their rights, and demanding redress for their wrongs, than the Greek Antiochians, and other sects of Christians, who are more limited in numbers, and who are scattered across the face of the country; for these reasons, the exposition with the Maronites of their wrongs, has degenerated more than once into insolence and factious opposition.

The intolerance of the Turks has been so much talked of, that it is only fair to add, that the Christians did not use, in the flush of their liberty after the oppression of centuries, the privileges and advantages which Ibrahim Pasha granted to them, with discretion, or with regard to the feelings of the Mussulmans, and that the latter are now revenging themselves for former slights; but this can only be the case to a limited extent; on the other hand, it is quite certain, that although the Christians complain of the intolerance of the Turks, yet that the different sects of the former, in their jealousies and contentions, evince a similar spirit. The Latin and Greek Catholics have been known to engage in bloody contests over the tomb of the Holy Sepulchre, and seldom have greater proofs of unrelenting bigotry been furnished than by the Patriarch of the Maronites himself.

The sufferings and persecutions which a Maronite of the name of Shydiach endured at the hands of the Patriarch, because he had become a convert to Protestantism, have been recorded in print, and cannot be forgotten. Because Shydiach would not return to his church, the Patriarch imprisoned him for years, subjecting him to every species of privation, and almost torture, till his victim died of starvation and his sufferings. A few months ago the Patriarch, by presents to Zachariah Pasha, had actually induced that officer to apply to the Porte to remove the American Missionaries from Syria, "as being dangerous and designing persons;" and, about six weeks ago, Mr. Thompson, the head



of the American Mission, received a letter from Constantinople, informing him, that the Patriarch had made fresh applications on the same subject, and that it was uncertain whether they would not be attended with success. I feel bound to say, that the American Missionaries have certainly not merited the harsh terms in which the Patriarch spoke of them, still less the punishment he has endeavoured to visit on them.

There is no doubt that the power which his Eminence enjoys at present, and constituted as it is, is too great to be beneficial to his country, an evil which would be remedied, if the sovereignty of the Mountains were vested in the hands of a prince of influence and talent, which unfortunately is not the case at present.

The instructions which Mr. Moore and myself received from Viscount Ponsonby, to do our best to preserve peace amongst the Mountains, and to assure them that Her Majesty's Government had obtained for them from the Porte all that they had a right to desire, have contributed to produce favourable results.

We availed ourselves of this opportunity to tell the numerous Sheiks, clergymen, and persons of all classes who came to visit us, that we had considered that we should best do our duty, and exemplify the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, by exercising the influence which we are possessed of, as Her Majesty's servants, by striving to secure to the Syrians the blessings of justice and of peace.

The answer universally given was certainly most flattering to Her Majesty's Government. They said that they had never doubted for an instant their good faith; that, without recurring to the past, they were now convinced that Great Britain was the Lebanon's truest and best friend; and that in all and every respect, they wished to be guided by the wishes of Her Majesty's Government. They added, they were well aware of our exertions in their favour; and that if the thanks of a people which had been rescued, mainly by our exertions, from scenes of revolt and bloodshed, could be considered worth having, that they freely gave them to us.

I am quite aware that the Sheiks, and upper classes of the Lebanites, are not to be trusted. Facts and experience prove self-interest, great venality and very little patriotism, on their part; indeed, the latter is a sentiment to which they appear, with a few exceptions, to be strangers. Solymán Pasha showed last year a friend of mine a list of eighteen Sheiks, whose names I recognised, residents in this province, Kesrouan, who had offered him their services for 30,000 piastres. From a specimen I saw of one or two of these persons lately, I should think that the same price would still purchase them. There is more honour and good faith amongst the lower orders.

It is stated confidently, that, about the middle of last month, two Tatars were sent to Constantinople with the intelligence, that the Druses had consented to pay the Tariff, and all the other taxes, which the Government might require from them, provided they were allowed to be governed by a prince of their own; and that the person on whom they intended to confer this trust, is the Emir Effendi of Hasbeya, one of the Mahometan branches of the Shehab family.

In the south of Syria there is about the same measure of discontent as in the north, and it is produced by the same causes, but the law is still less respected; in fact, in the districts bordering on the Desert, the Dead Sea, the mountainous districts near Jerusalem, the banks of the Jordan, the law is not acknowledged, still less executed. Lieutenant Aldrich, whilst he was proceeding from Jericho to Jerusalem, saw from the road an engagement between two villages; the combatants were well armed and skirmishing, several of them had been wounded. The cause of strife was a very common one. Ibrahim Pasha, to reward the inhabitants of a village who had done him service, had bestowed on them common lands belonging to a village which had incurred his displeasure, and it was on the question of the right of possession that the two villages were in combat. Even in Jerusalem, the Governor acknowledged to Major Harvey, that he did not dare punish a man who had been convicted of a gross outrage on his servant, because the offender belonged to a powerful family.

But the Lebanon is the key of Syria, and it is in the Lebanon therefore that the state of feeling must be always of more importance than in any other part of Syria. The discontent in the south is more agrarian than political, although over-taxation may make it the latter. A vigorous ruler, in possession



of a thorough acquaintance with the language, customs, and tribes of the inhabitants, would soon reduce them to subjection.

It is to be regretted that the Turkish functionaries at present in Syria have not those qualifications.

No. 20.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)*

(Extract.)

*Gazir, August 9, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship, the copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Moore and myself to the Seraskier Selim Pasha. The object sought to be obtained by us will most probably meet with the support of His Excellency, because he is much annoyed at the projected separation of the Province of Djebel from that of Sidon, of which he is Mushir, or Marshal. The letter from Youssof Pasha, of Tripoli, to the Emir Beshir, announces that the dismemberment of the principality of the Lebanon, was resolved on at a meeting of the Divan of Damascus, of which Nejib Pasha is President, and of which the Desterdar and Youssof Pasha are members. It will deprive the Prince of the best part of his territory; and the Patriarchal See and a large Christian population will thus be removed from under the rule of a Christian, and placed under the authority of a Mahometan ruler.

This act, which must be ascribed to Nejib Pasha, for he is the Supreme Civil Authority in this country, and Youssof Pasha, his subordinate, is but a weak and timid person, furnishes a fresh proof of the Pasha of Damascus's misgovernment. He is following the policy which Mehemet Ali is stated to have recommended to some of the Druses, that is, to agitate, and create disaffection in the country, till he can step in and re-establish his rule. But Nejib Pasha, and his party have probably another object in view, which to them, as good Mussulmans, palliates, if it does not altogether excuse, their treason to their Sovereign, and that is the restoration of their religion to its former vigour. They could scarcely brook the innovations made by Sultan Mahmoud, which, they conceive, undermined their religion, and gave encouragement to the professors of other faiths, but the Hatti Sheriff, and the ordinances explanatory of it, have reduced them to despair: and the youth of the Sultan, and his amiable and liberal qualities, make them fear that a long reign will bring to maturity the system which has deprived Mahometanism of its most powerful weapon,—its terrors. They seek a champion, and they find a zealous one in Mehemet Ali, who, it is true, has never allowed his religious feelings to interfere with his interests, but who will be too happy, fallen, but still ambitious, and ever restless as he must be, to avail himself of the support which he would acquire by adopting the watchword of "The Law of the Prophet, and nothing but the Law of the Prophet." He would hope to gain a twofold object, the aid of good Mussulmans, and the opportunity to exercise his vengeance on the Christians, whom, he states in anger, he protected when he was strong, but who deserted him when he was weak. Singular indications of the feeling of the party I have mentioned, occasionally occur. In the discussion which took place in the Divan of Beyrout, as to the propriety of receiving Christian evidence, the Mufti declared, when it was urged that his decision was contrary to the orders of his Sovereign, that he would not alter his sentence even should the Sultan himself enter the Divan, and direct him to do so.

There is another opinion also which is gaining ground in the country, and which has created alarm, and that is, that Mehemet Ali intends to affect entire submission to the will of the Sultan, and that, in his humility, and in his penitence, he will offer himself as an instrument to preserve order in his dominions, and to put down revolt; and that, whilst he by this line of conduct, which under existing circumstances may be satisfactory to the Porte, allays its suspicions, and gains its good-will, his agents, by the profuse expenditure of money, will strengthen his interest at Constantinople, and elsewhere. They will continue to promote disaffection and revolt in this country, which, single-handed, the Turks will be unable to quell; in this straight, the Pasha of Egypt will offer the assistance,

(which has been found useful in the Hedjaz, Candia, and elsewhere,) to uphold also the authority of the Sultan in Syria, and will pour his troops into this country. Mehemet Ali's late conduct; the offer of his troops to quell revolt in Candia; his refusal to grant the demand made by Lieutenant-Colonel Napier, for the release of the Syrian soldiers, his assigning as a reason for his so doing, the delicate sense of his duty towards the Porte, which would not allow him to perform his promise to Sir Charles Napier, without reference to his Sovereign, although he has made a long life remarkable by a systematic disobedience of his Sovereign; his manifest endeavours in this matter of the Syrian soldiers to cause a jealousy and produce an estrangement between Her Majesty's Government and that of the Sublime Porte, by his insinuations that the demand of the British Government for the release of the Syrian soldiers should have come through the Ottoman Government, although he well knew that his promise to Sir Charles Napier was one of the conditions of a convention entered into with exclusive reference to the interests of the Porte, and which permitted his weakened and disorganized force to retire from Syria unmolested by Her Majesty's and the Sultan's Forces.

I have had the honour to represent in the strongest manner, the misconduct of Nejib Pasha to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

A report is current, that several Defterdars in different parts of the Ottoman Empire, have exaggerated and increased the financial difficulties with the view of rendering the aid of Mehemet Ali necessary, and that the connexion between the Pasha of Egypt, and the revolutionary party in Turkey, is manifest.

This information throws still more light on the motives of action of Nejib Pasha.

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Inclosure in No. 20

*Colonel Rose and Mr. Moore to Selim Pasha.*

Excellency,

*Beyrout, July 24, 1841.*

YOUR Excellency has already been apprized by Captain Arbuthnot, at the desire of Colonel Rose, of the contents of a letter which Mr. Moore had received from his Excellency the Emir Beshir, acquainting him that Youssouf Pasha of Tripoli, had intimated to him, that in virtue of a decision emanating from Nejib Pasha of Damascus, the district of Djebel was henceforward to be detached from the jurisdiction of the Emir, and placed under that of the Pasha of Tripoli; and that the Emir Beshir had, in consequence, remonstrated in the strongest manner against that decision, and appealed to British authority against its being carried into execution.

The Emir Beshir adduces the following objections to the decision in question.

First, Because the Firman from His Highness the Sultan confirmed to him the same jurisdiction and privileges as those enjoyed by his predecessors.

Secondly, Because the district of Djebel has been under the government of the Emirs of Lebanon from a most ancient date; and

Lastly, Because the servants of the British Government in Syria, at the period of the breaking out of the revolt, assured his Excellency that he should possess the same authority and extent of dominions as the ex-Emir did; upon the faith of which assurance he had embraced the cause of the Sultan.

Not doubting that your Excellency will concur with us in our opinion as to the breach of faith and injustice of thus dispossessing the Emir Beshir of rights guaranteed to him by His Imperial Highness's Firman, and by the solemn pledge of Her Majesty's servants, which latter circumstance has induced us to address your Excellency on the subject, we respectfully solicit that your Excellency will be pleased to take such steps as you may consider necessary for preventing the dismemberment of the Emir Beshir's dominions.

We have, &c.,

(Signed)

HUGH ROSE.  
NIVEN MOORE.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 9.)*

My Lord,

*Gazir, August 10, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that conflicts have taken place in five different parts of the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, between the Christians and Druses; in two instances, they have been attended with the loss of life. Disputes about the possession of land, and trivial matters, were the causes of quarrel between two sects whose mutual animosity is proverbial. On the present occasions, the Druses appear to have been the aggressors. It is reasonably enough supposed, that their late negotiations with the Turkish authorities, who have sought to strengthen themselves by a connexion with them, and the encouragement which they have received from them, have induced the Druses to avail themselves of so favourable an occasion for seizing disputed land, and gratifying their feelings of dislike towards the Christians.

The Emir Beshir, by order of the Sublime Porte, had convoked a meeting of the principal inhabitants of the Lebanon to take into consideration the question of the taxation. It was to have assembled at Ainoob on Saturday last; but it has been put off on account of the feeling which exists between the Christians and the Druses. The Emir Beshir received certain information that a conspiracy had been formed by certain Druses and Christians to assassinate his Highness at the meeting.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 14.)*

(Extract.)

*Gazir, August 14, 1841.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th June, 1841, with its inclosure, I have the honour to state to your Lordship, that the Mufti of Beyrout, whose misconduct was set forth in that inclosure, has been removed from his office by an order from Constantinople. I submitted to your Lordship a similar instance of misconduct on the part of this Law Officer, in my despatch of the 4th May, 1841. The Seraskier expresses great indignation against the Mufti, and when he presented a petition to him for his restoration to office, called him a dog. His Excellency now states, that the exposition of the law by the Mufti, that Christian evidence was not admissible in Turkish courts of justice, was not correct; that it can be received, but with the proviso that the evidence of two Christians is only equal to that of one Turk. It is true, that according to the Koran, Christian evidence cannot be received, but it was supposed that this bar to justice, and which would render it so difficult for a Turk to govern a Christian country, had been removed by the Hatti-Sheriff; and this appears to be the opinion of the Divan at Constantinople; but Mr. Wood states, that it is difficult to tell always by what rules that assembly is guided, as they act very much for themselves; and he adds, that in Turkish criminal courts of justice Christian evidence is still inadmissible.

The Mufti adopted a course much in use amongst Turkish functionaries when they are displaced; he endeavoured to obtain a petition to the Seraskier for reinstalment from the Christian inhabitants of Beyrout, and he succeeded in obtaining the signatures of a few of them. On the Mufti's presenting the petition to the Divan, he was met by two or three of its Christian members with his own weapons. "What," they said, "do you now, for the sake of your own purposes, acknowledge the validity of Christian evidence? do you now beg us to give weight to the simple affirmation of Christians, when you have repeatedly and officially declared that the oath of a Christian is so valueless, that it cannot save the life of a person in whose favour it is tendered?"

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The instance of Christians petitioning and signing documents in favour of functionaries most obnoxious to them, and against whom they have petitioned in secret, is not uncommon in Syria. It arises from the subjection of the Rayahs, and the dread transmitted to them from their forefathers, whose spirit has been broken by centuries of oppression and injustice. This circumstance makes it most difficult for persons not resident in Syria to judge of the real state of feeling. Thus the Musteshar Effendi, whose peculations were so remarkable, and who was displaced on account of them, whose vices were even deprecated by his colleagues, circulated a statement through Beyrout, to which he obtained signatures, which set forth that he was an honest and upright functionary. Again, in the case of Nejib Pasha, the Christians of Damascus, have signed a statement that he is an impartial and liberal-minded Governor, although, in private, they declare that his rule makes their lives a burthen to them; that his declared aversion to them excites the Mahometans to attack their property and persons; and that his Excellency denies them the form of justice and investigation, even in cases where life has been lost.

What I have stated in the first part of this despatch will prove to your Lordship the uncertainty which exists amongst the Turkish Authorities on so vital a point as that of receiving or not receiving the evidence of so influential a class of persons as the Christians of Syria. The confusion on this subject seems to have been quite sufficient, without the novel opinion of the Seraskier, that the oaths of two Christians are only equal in value to that of one Turk. The Christians consequently have reduced this equation, and declare that, according to this calculation, one Christian is only equal to half a Turk.

Twice since I had the honour to forward to your Lordship the above-mentioned inclosure, I have had to exert my influence, and both times I did so with effect, to obtain the release of Christians who had been assaulted by Mahometans, and imprisoned on their evidence, the Christian evidence having been rejected; and I have now the honour most respectfully to submit to your Lordship, that an alteration in the law which fixes a stigma on the evidence of Christians, deprives them of the benefit of justice, and creates such bitter feelings between them and their Mahometan neighbours, would be of all things most desirable for the welfare of this country.

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No. 23.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 14.)*

My Lord,

*Gazir, August 18, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that in the beginning of this month, the Turkish authorities in Beyrout convoked a meeting of the leading persons of the Mountain at Ainoob, for the purpose of taking into consideration the subject of the taxation. The meeting has continued its sittings up to the present time without coming to any satisfactory determination. The Emir Beshir proceeded to it, attended by an escort of 150 horsemen, lest the persons who are said to have had the design of assassinating his Highness, should have attempted to put their plan into execution. He found at Ainoob the Sheik Naaman with a large retinue, and other Druse Sheiks with their followers, in all about 400 or 500 persons. There were hardly any Christians there. There were two reasons for their absence.

1. It was reported that the Druses had agreed to pay the required taxes provided they were permitted to be governed by a Mahometan Prince, and that thus, the Druses' petition to that effect had been sent to Constantinople by the Turkish authorities. The Christians who had resolved on not paying the Tariff, were not willing therefore to attend the meeting, and, by their refusal, place their conduct in unfavourable contrast, as regarded their duty to their Sovereign, with that of their rivals, the Druses, who, they believed, would offer to pay all.

The petition of the Druses really was sent to Constantinople, and met with a very unfavourable reception from the Divan, who justly reprobated this attempt to create division in the Lebanon.

2. The Patriarch did not sanction the appearance of Christians at the meeting, because first, he thought that their non-attendance would cause its failure; and secondly, he was apprehensive that his communicants, the Maronites, might

be induced by the Turks and Druses, to join in measures in opposition to his policy, and hurtful to the perfect discipline in which he has hitherto kept them. Subsequently, however, his Eminence gave way to the solicitation of the Turkish Authorities, (who were determined that the meeting should take place,) and the Christians attended. Mustapha Pasha was present, on the part of the Turkish Government. The proceedings of the meeting were unsatisfactory as to the Tariff in its present form; the deputies, both Druses and Christians, again declared their opposition, nor were they willing to pay in the shape of taxes, or miri, more than 1,000 purses a-year to the Sultan, but they offered to raise in the Mountain a sufficient sum for the expenses of its government. These proposals were not accepted by the Turkish Government, and Mustapha Pasha, who is a young man of no talent, became tired of constant attendance at the meeting, and amused himself by shooting. Reshid Pasha, Governor of Acre, was sent to assist him, and after the meeting had been assembled about a fortnight. I received an indirect communication from the Seraskier, that the accounts from Ainoob were unfavourable, and that the demeanour and language of the deputies were so unconciliatory, that he thought that he should be compelled to have recourse to arms. I had been aware for some time of the animosity of Selim Pasha towards the Mountaineers, and of his Excellency's wish to try his military prowess, and that of his soldiers, of which unfortunately he has a favourable opinion, against them. The opinion which the Turks entertain of their own merits, is singular. His Excellency's brother went the other day on board one of Her Majesty's line of battle ships then lying at Beyrout, and after he had been conducted round her, said to the commander, "Well, it must be allowed that you are the first naval Power, but you will agree with me, that the Turks are the first military one." Selim Pasha had brought out a couple of guns to the Pines, about two miles from Beyrout, and moved some irregular cavalry and infantry up to them. Under these circumstances, Mr. Moore and myself thought it advisable to visit the Patriarch, who had expressed a wish to see us, and ascertain the feelings of a person, whose influence could cause the continuance, or the cessation of tranquillity. His Eminence, and the Bishops Peter and Tubia, made us strong assurances of their respect for, and confidence in, the British Government, saying that the Mountaineers looked to England as their only hope in their unfortunate differences with the Turkish Government. The Patriarch used very much the same arguments as did formerly Bishop Tubia, and which are detailed in my despatch of the 3rd May. He said that the Mountain would pay a Tariff of 3 per cent., and give 1,000, perhaps 1,200, purses to the Sultan; that the Turkish Government might settle the amount of the salaries of the Government Officers of the Lebanon, but that the Mountaineers would raise the required sum amongst themselves, and pay their Prince, &c., &c. The Patriarch and his party are anxious to carry this point, lest the Turks should at any time endeavour to force upon them a Prince who might not be agreeable to them. His Eminence seemed anxious that the meeting at Ainoob should petition Her Majesty's Government for their mediation. We replied, that, with the greatest deference to his Eminence's opinion, such a proceeding would not be advisable, for the meeting at Ainoob having been convoked by the Turkish Authorities, for the express purpose of inquiring into, and coming to a decision on, the question of taxation, and in the event of their not being able to come to a decision, that they, the Mountaineers, should, through their Prince, state their reasons respectfully to the Ottoman Government, we conceived, that, for these reasons, the Sublime Porte would be justly offended, if the meeting at Ainoob were to petition a foreign, instead of their own Government. Mr. Moore and myself remarked, that the plan of the people paying their Prince, and thus assuming the prerogative of the Sultan, was hardly reasonable, and that a reduction of 9 per cent. on the Tariff, which was 12 per cent., was too great to afford well grounded hopes of a satisfactory and permanent settlement of the question. His Eminence stated that if the Turkish Government attempted to enforce the Tariff, the consequences would be fatal. We observed to the Patriarch, that his sacred profession and his character, made us feel certain that he would consider a recourse to arms as the greatest calamity which could befall his country; that both parties, the Turks and the Mountaineers, were unfortunately excited; and that measures taken either by individuals, or nations, in moments of passion, were always deplored by them; and we earnestly begged his Eminence to use his great influence to induce the meeting to meet the proposals made to them with a conciliatory spirit. The

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Patriarch stated that the calling so many people together was most impolitic at the present time, when so much irritation existed, not only between Turks and Christians, but also between the latter and the Druses; that the people had already met and petitioned, but that no notice had been taken of their prayer; and that the time lost by the persons who attended these meetings, which lasted so long, and had no result, was most prejudicial to the growers of silk. We replied that that petition, an account of which is contained in my despatch of the 2nd of June, was not couched in language which a people ought to address to their Sovereign, and that its allegations, besides, were not exactly founded on facts. This was a delicate subject, for it has always been believed that the petition in question was drawn up by the Bishop Tubia, and with the sanction of the Patriarch. I added, that it would perhaps be better not to revert to the past, but to do the best for the present; that the case was comprised in a few words as regarded hostilities, to which his Eminence had alluded; that if the Mountaineers descended to the plains, and attacked the Turks in the towns, that they would be beaten by the latter, who had a good deal of fine artillery and cavalry; and that, on the other hand, the Turks, if they attacked the Mountaineers in the mountains, would be beaten.

The Patriarch said that my position was true as well as my observation, that the Turks, with plenty of ships, and the command of the coast by sea and land, would be enabled to harass and starve the Mountain with comparatively little loss to themselves. But Mr. Moore and myself observed, the mere mention of such a contingency was most painful to us; and we appealed to the Patriarch, whether it would not be infinitely preferable to trust in the unceasing exertions and most friendly offices of Her Majesty's Government to obtain from the Porte a just settlement of the taxation, and all other matters which concerned the happiness of the Syrians, in whose welfare Her Majesty's Government were so sincerely interested, than to try the chances of civil war, a step which, whilst it paralyzed the efforts of the British Government, would at the same time expose the Lebanon to evils an hundred fold greater than the Tariff, considered even as it was by his Eminence. The Patriarch, in reply, said he would do his best to preserve peace, and that if the meeting at Ainoob failed in coming to a conclusion which would be satisfactory, that rather than proceed to hostilities, he would cheerfully sanction and promote a wish which he knew to be general amongst the Mountaineers, to entreat the mediation of Great Britain between the Porte and themselves. We replied, that we were certain that Her Majesty's Government would never refuse to promote the welfare of the Ottoman Government and of her Syrian subjects by endeavouring to remove the causes of difference which might exist between them, provided they were solicited so to act.

The result of our interview with the Patriarch convinced me that this personage acknowledges, as a matter of course, the great influence and power which have been attributed to him, and which I have had the honor to bring to your Lordship's notice at different times. His Eminence is a person of talent; his demeanor and mode of expressing himself is most stern. I should conceive him to be a relentless opponent of those who thwart his views or policy. In religious matters it is not possible to imagine a more formidable or uncompromising adversary than his Eminence. His aversion to the Turks is evident, as is his opposition to the Tariff. In speaking of the Turks, in one part of the conversation, he said with great animation, "Let them come on," alluding to their attacking the Mountaineers. The Priest who acted as interpreter, would not translate the expression, but I understood the Arabic. His Eminence is nearly sixty, has the dropsy, and I do not think that he will live long.

The meeting at Ainoob still continues, and may linger on for some time longer; but both parties, the Turkish Commissioners and the Mountaineers, are beginning to lose their tempers, which will not accelerate an arrangement between them. I fear that the question of taxation will not be permanently and satisfactorily settled, unless a third party consent to mediate; but this party should be quite unconnected either with the Ottoman Government or the Mountaineers.

I have received an assurance that the Seraskier has abandoned his hostile intentions.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.



## No. 24.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 14.)*

My Lord,

*Gazir, August 29, 1841.*

WITH reference to my despatch on the 10th of August, in which I had the honour to detail to your Lordship accounts of feuds between Druses and Christians, I thought that the exertion of my influence with the former people, might prevent a recurrence, or a continuance of those disorders. I therefore sent a messenger to the leading Sheik of the Druses, Naaman Djinblat, Hamud Abuneked, and others, enjoining them to do their utmost to preserve tranquillity.

They shewed the utmost zeal in complying with my request; and about ten days since, I received letters from them, in which they informed me, that they had sent confidential persons to Hasbeya, Meten, and other places, to put an immediate stop to all acts of violence, and to re-establish peace: they add that the mission of these persons had met with complete success, or, in their own words, "that they had brought the parties to kiss each other, and so peace is established, not only in Hasbeya, but in other places." The proof that they did so, was that the disorders ceased. At the close of their letter to me, two of the Sheiks say, "and please God! as your Government keep her eye on this country, none but good things shall take place."

Major Robe, who was passing accidentally through Deir-el-Kammar, found the Sheik Naaman engaged personally in separating the combatants.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HUGH ROSE.

## No. 25.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 10.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, August 28, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to announce my arrival at Beyrout on the 27th instant.

Various difficulties have arisen respecting the amount of tribute to be paid by the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, who have resisted, hitherto, the payment of the sum of 3,500 purses, as fixed by the Sublime Porte, out of which the Sublime Porte has consented to pay back to them 2,200 purses, to defray the expenses of their administration.

The Mountaineers are also dissatisfied with the rate of duties levied on silk, according to the new tariff, which amount to 16 piastres the oke, calculating the oke at 120 piastres.

As the Sublime Porte has instructed both Selim Pasha and the Defterdar, in the event the inhabitants of Lebanon refused to consent to the payment of the established tribute, to concert such other measures as may be satisfactory to them; and further, that the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon may not have any cause of complaint, to fix the price of silk at 100 piastres, and to calculate the duties at the above rate only, which will reduce their amount considerably, in comparison to what was paid formerly, without making any alteration in the tariff of customs; I am in great hopes the difficulties will be removed, and a proper understanding established between the Mountaineers and the Officers of the Sublime Porte.

A meeting will be held, to-morrow, of the principal Emirs and Sheiks, both Christians and Druses, at which, agreeably to the request of the Sublime Porte, I shall attend, with their Excellencies Selim Pasha and the Defterdar, to adjust these two points; and I will do myself the honour of reporting to your Lordship the result, which I sincerely trust will be of a nature to give general satisfaction to all parties.

Although my arrival within a few hours has not allowed me time to procure any positive information regarding the state of the country in general, yet I have learnt enough to be able to state that the different parties here are animated with the bitterest animosity towards each other.



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*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 14.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, September 7, 1841.*

I HAVE had the honour of stating to your Lordship in my letter of the 28th August last, that a meeting was to be held of the principal Emirs and Sheiks, to take into consideration the amount of tribute to be paid by the inhabitants of Lebanon, which the Sublime Porte had fixed at 3,500 purses, (about £16,000,) and which they had refused to pay.

The first meeting took place on the 2nd instant, and the discussions were prolonged in consequence of the obstinacy of the Mountain Chiefs, who refused, notwithstanding their expressions of loyalty and submission to the Sultan, to pay the amount of tribute established by the Sublime Porte, unless the Turkish authorities fixed the sum to be deducted for the expenses of the administration of the Mountain,—with the avowed intention of deducting themselves that sum from the amount of the tribute, and paying only the remainder into the imperial treasury,—declaring openly that they would arrange among themselves the expenses of the Mountain, without the interference of the Turkish authorities.

I endeavoured to persuade them that their pretension could never be acceded to, without depriving the Sublime Porte of the right it has of defraying, through its own officers, the expenses of the administration of its various provinces; that the Sublime Porte could never be brought to consent to receive only a stated sum of money from its provinces without interfering in the details of their respective administrations; neither could it be expected that it would admit of a principle that would virtually erect Mount Lebanon into a principality; and that, in short, it was unreasonable in them to demand to be placed in the same position as Egypt with regard to the Sublime Porte.

Notwithstanding that they excused themselves by saying that their proposition had for its only object their own security against the extortions of the governing Prince, yet it was evident they wished, by having a certain control over the expenses of the administration, to force the Prince to divide the Government of the country amongst them, that they may, in their turn, extort any sums they please from the inhabitants, under the plea of defraying the expenses of their own petty courts.

They finally consented to pay the 3,500 purses, agreeably to the document signed by them, a translation of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith, under No. 1, with the condition that the amount of the expenses should be fixed by their Excellencies Selim Pasha and the Defterdar Effendi on the one part, and the Emir Beshir and myself on the other, which has been done, and which amount to 2,100 purses according to Inclosure No. 2, which specifies the items thereof, leaving only 1,400 purses, or about £6,400, of net revenue to the Turkish Government.

I dare venture to express a hope that this arrangement will meet with your Lordship's approval. The sum of 3,500 purses is less than a quarter of what the Mountaineers paid in "Miri," "Ferdé," and other arbitrary extortions, to Ibrahim Pasha and the ex-Emir Beshir; they cannot, therefore, have any reasonable cause of complaint; and I have had since the satisfaction of receiving the thanks of many who consider this arrangement as very favourable to the interests of the Mountains.

The impossibility of destroying, at once, the feudal right of the Mukatagis, or feudal Lords, to levy contributions both in money and in produce, coupled with the necessity, however, of securing their clients from the payment of such illegal and arbitrary dues, it has been thought expedient to allow them to levy 5 per cent. on the revenue of their respective districts, under the name of "Igret Tahsiliye," or "Igret Kalemiye," as a remuneration for collecting the public revenue, and which amounts to about £800. To this sum the Government will add £1200 more, making in all about £2000, which is to be divided among the feudal Lords, on condition that they exact nothing more from their clients.

Formerly, many of the noble families of Mount Lebanon were exempted from the payment of the "Miri." In the present arrangement they have voluntarily relinquished this privilege, which will lessen, considerably, the portion that

each individual will have to pay actually. The Emir Beshir was the first to offer to make this personal sacrifice.

I have the honour of inclosing translations of the bouyourouldis of their Excellencies Selim Pasha and the Defterdar Effendi, to the Emir Beshir, and to the other Emirs and Sheiks of Lebanon, and of their instructions to the former regarding his government.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 1 in No 26.

*Document signed by the Emirs and Sheiks, promising to pay Tribute.*

(Traduction.)

LE Vergi (Miri) établi par an sur la montagne de Shouf, Kesrouan, Djebel, et leurs dépendances, depuis le " Merit " (13 Mars, 1841) de l'année 1257. Après la déduction faite par la Sublime Porte en faveur des habitans du Mont Liban, c'est-à-dire,—

Tribut ancien	-	piastres	1,325,000
Augmenté par Ibrahim Pacha	-	„	1,919,500
			3,244,500
Déduction en faveur des pauvres		„	1,494,500
			1,750,000
Total de la somme à percevoir		„	

D'après la bienveillance de la Sublime Porte, et l'amour qu'elle a pour ses sujets, ses autorités ont déduit des tributs qui étaient établis aux susdites montagnes, en leur faveur, la somme de 1,494,500 piastres.

Le Mont Liban s'engage de payer annuellement la somme de piastres 1,750,000, en vertu du désir de la Sublime Porte. Il sera déduit de cette somme pour les salaires de l'Emir Béchir-el-Cassim, les membres du Conseil, les Gouverneurs que l'Emir Béchir nommera, ses employés, sa suite de cavalerie et infanterie, qui seront employés pour le service de l'administration de la Montagne, et le reste sera versé à la Trésorerie d'Acre en trois époques de l'année. Nous promettons que cette somme sera taxée sur les habitans avec égalité, par l'entremise de l'Emir Béchir et des membres du Conseil.

Etant reconnaissans à la Sublime Porte pour la grâce qu'elle vient de nous accorder, nous nous obligeons de lui payer annuellement 3,500 bourses, déduisant les susdites dépenses de l'administration.

En foi de quoi nous avons scellé et signé ce document que nous avons remis à leurs Excellences Selim Pacha, Mouchir, et au Defterdar, Hadgi Etem Bey de ce Pachalic, pour la susdite somme, qui est en vigueur depuis le commencement du Merit (13 Mars, 1841) de l'an 1257.

*Le 16 Redyib, 1257. (3 Septembre, 1841.)*

(Signé et Scellé)

EMIR BESHIR EL-SHEHAB.  
EMIR EMIN KAID BE.  
SHEIK HAMUD MANSHUR.  
SHEIK YACoub HEBESH.  
SHEIK YUSSEF HABESH.  
EMIR HAIDAR SHEHAB.  
EMIR EMIN RASLAN.  
SHEIK ATMEN ELVAN.  
SHEIK BESHARA-EL-HASSIN.  
EMIR HAIDAR KAID BE.  
SHEIK NAAMAN DJINBLAT.  
EMIR HAIDAR RASLAN.  
SHEIK FRANCIS-EL-HAZIN.

(Translation.)

THE Vergi (Miri) established by the year on the mountain of Shoof, Kesrouan, Djebail, and their dependencies, from the "Merit," of the year 1257 (13th of March, 1841.) After the deduction made by the Sublime Porte in favour of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, that is to say :—

	Piastres.
Ancient tribute - - - - -	1,325,000
Increased by Ibrahim Pasha - - -	1,919,500
	<hr/>
	3,244,500
Deduction in favour of the poor - -	1,494,500
	<hr/>
Total sum to be received - - -	1,750,000
	<hr/>

In consequence of the benevolence of the Sublime Porte, and the love which she has for her subjects, her authorities have deducted in their favour from the tributes, which were fixed for the aforesaid mountains, the sum of 1,494,500 piastres.

Mount Lebanon engages to pay annually, in conformity with the wish of the Sublime Porte, the sum of 1,750,000 piastres. A deduction will be made from that sum on account of the salaries of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, the members of the council, the governors who shall be appointed by the Emir Beshir, his officers, his force of cavalry and infantry, which shall be employed for carrying on the government of the Mountain, and the rest shall be paid into the treasury at Acre at three periods of the year. We promise that this sum shall be levied equally upon the inhabitants, by the intervention of the Emir Beshir and of the members of the council.

Being grateful to the Sublime Porte for the favour which she has now granted to us, we bind ourselves to pay to her annually 3,500 purses, deducting the above-mentioned charges of the administration.

In witness whereof we have sealed and signed this document, which we have delivered to their Excellencies Setim Pasha, Mushir, and to the Defterdar Hadji Edhem Bey, of this Pashalic, for the aforesaid sum, which takes effect from the commencement of the "Merit" (March 13, 1841) of the year 1257.

September 3, 1841.

Signed and sealed as above.

#### Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

*Translation of a Note, specifying the Salaries (which the Tanzimati Hairiyé provided for) of his Excellency the Emir Beshir, Governor of Mount Lebanon, of the Judges and Magistrates of the Members of the Meglis, of some Public Servants, of the Secretaries, of the limited number of Policemen, and other Public Servants, whose pay commences from the day they are employed.*

SALARIES.	Piastres per Month.	Per Annum.
His Excellency Emir Beshir - - - - -	25,000	300,000
Two Judges - - - - -	1500	18,000
Two Magistrates - - - - -	750	9000
Half of the Salary of the Emir Kiaja - - - - -	500	6000
Public Secretary of the Emir - - - - -	3000	36,000
Treasury and Secretary - - - - -	750	9000
Eight Secretaries - - - - -	2500	33,600
Ten Boulouk Bashis and Ten Police Officers - - - - -	3000	36,000
Seventy-five Mounted Gensdarmes - - - - -	15,000	180,000
One Hundred and Ninety Gensdarmes - - - - -	19,000	228,000
President of the Meglis - - - - -	800	9600
Ten Members of the Meglis - - - - -	5000	60,000
Secretary of the Meglis - - - - -	350	4200
Allowance to be added to the Salaries of the Revenue Collectors or the Mukatagis - - - - -	10,050	120,600
Total amount of the Expenses of the Administration of Mount Lebanon, 2100 Purses - - - - -	87,500	1,050,000

Beyrout, 18 Redgib, 1257. (Septembre 5, 1841.)

(Signed)

SELIM,

Mushir et Seraskier.  
HADJI EDHEM BEY,  
Defterdar.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 26.

*Bouyourouldi to the Emir Beshir respecting the Tribute.*

(Traduction.)

NOUS vous prévenons que du Mont Liban, c'est-à-dire le Shouf, Kesrouan, Djebel, et leurs dépendances, pendant le teins de Méhémet Ali, outre qu'il prenait 6,488 bourses pour le Tribut et le Ferdé, l'Ex-Emir Béchir retirait pour lui une énorme somme d'argent en vexant le peuple. Maintenant que la Syrie se trouve sous la domination de Notre Magnanime Souverain, Abdul Medjid, par sa magnanimité et miséricorde pour ses sujets, il a ordonné que le peuple ne soit plus vexé par ses chefs, il a même empêché à ses employés de recevoir des gratifications, et a ordonné que le Mont Liban payât 3,500 bourses, au nom de "Yuruk" ou "Miri" par an, depuis le commencement de l'année 1257 (13 Mars, 1841); les salaires de l'Emir Béchir, des Membres du Conseil, des Gouverneurs, des employés suivant la note, seront déduits de cette somme, et d'après la convention signée et scellée par tous vous autres que vous acceptez de payer la dite somme de 3,500 bourses au nom de "Yuruk" ou "Miri." Maintenant il faut vous empresser de vous réunir à percevoir cette somme des habitans, avec équité, sans vexer le peuple, et de verser cette somme à la Trésorerie d'Acre, et par la grâce tous vous serez heureux, et faites des vœux pour Notre Magnanime Souverain le Sultan Abdul Medjid.

Beyrout, le 18 Redjib, 1257. (5 Septembre, 1841.)

(Signé et Scellé)

MOHAMED SELIM,

*Mushir de Saïda.*

HADJI EDHEM BEY,

*Defterdar.*

(Translation.)

WE apprise you that from Mount Lebanon, that is to say, the Shoof, Kesrouan, Djebail, and their dependencies, during the time of Mehemet Ali, besides that he took 6,488 purses for tribute and Ferdé, the Ex-Emir Beshir collected for himself an enormous sum of money by oppressing the people. Now that Syria is under the rule of our magnanimous Sovereign, Abdul Medjid, by reason of his magnanimity and his pity for his subjects, he hath ordained that the people should no longer be oppressed by their Chiefs; he has even prevented his officers from receiving presents, and has decreed that Mount Lebanon should pay each year 3,500 purses, under the denomination of "Yuruk" or "Miri," from the beginning of the year 1257 (March 13, 1841); the salaries of the Emir Beshir, of the members of the council, of the governors, of the officers according to the list, shall be deducted from this sum; and in conformity with the agreement signed and sealed by all the rest of you, that you agree to pay the said sum of 3,500 purses, under the denomination of "Yuruk" or "Miri." At present you must proceed forthwith to meet and levy this sum equitably upon the inhabitants, without harassing the people, and pay the same into the treasury at Acre, and by favour you will be all happy, and pray ye for our magnanimous Sovereign, the Sultan Abdul Medjid.

(Signed and sealed)

MOHAMMED SELIM,

*Mushir of Saïda.*

HADJI EDHEM BEY,

*Defterdar.*

Beyrout, September 5, 1841.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 26.

*Instructions given to the Emir Beshir, Governor of Mount Lebanon.*

(Translation.)

AT the time of the Egyptian administration, the mountains of Lebanon, that is the districts of Djebail, Shoof, Kesrouan, and Belad Djebail, with their dependencies and villages, paid annually 6,488 purses in "Miri" and "Ferdé,"

besides upwards of 10,000 purses, which the ex-Emir took for himself; but now, agreeably to the Royal benevolence and magnanimity of his Imperial Highness the Sultan, towards all his subjects in common, the aforesaid Mountains are required to pay a tribute of only 3,500 purses, commencing from the month of March, 1257, including the salaries of your Excellency, of the limited number of Policemen, of the Secretaries and of other employés, as well as the stipends of the members of the "Meglis" that is to be established in the Mountains. These different officers and employés are to be changed or confirmed in their places and posts according to the pleasure of your Excellency. Notwithstanding that stipends have been granted to the Emirs and Sheiks of certain districts, we have thought them insufficient for their maintenance, and should they levy 5 per cent. on the net revenue, it will not be lawful to exact any thing more from the poor people (clients), which resolution you will notify to the aforesaid Revenue Officers (Mukatagis).

2. The 3,500 purses will be collected and paid in three instalments into the Treasury of Acre, the first in the month of June, the second in the month of September, and the third in December. The salaries of the members of the "Meglis," of the Secretaries, Police, &c., will commence from the day they are employed; and his Excellency the Emir Beshir will draw monthly on the Treasury of Acre for their amount, according to the list he has presented of public servants and officers.

3. The governing Prince is the president of the "Meglis" that is to be established in the Mountains, but as his occupations may not allow his attendance, he will appoint a representative, and according to the provisions of the "Tanzimati Hairiyé," the other members are to be elected by the people. The President will have a monthly salary of 800 piastres, the other members 500 each, and the secretary 350. The members of the "Meglis" are to examine with impartiality all matters that come under their notice, and will decide with justice and equity, and will submit to the Governor of the Pashalic of Saida the register of their proceedings on affairs of importance.

4. The accounts of the public revenue of the year 1256 Hejira have not been verified as yet, and even when verified, it will be found that the greater part has been collected already. However, you are required to examine attentively what part of the revenue remains yet in the hands of some unknown individuals; and your Excellency will send a list of their names, and of the sums in their possession, to the Treasury of Acre.

5. The territories and districts in the Mountains held by imperial "Berats," and which have become "Mahloul" (returned to the Crown by the death of the tenants), must be restored to the Imperial Treasury. Notwithstanding that they are possessed illegally by some individuals, which so soon as their title deeds are examined, their right to their tenure will be referred to Constantinople for fresh instructions and imperial grants.

6. The "Tanzimati Hairiyé" having for object the protection of the lives, property and honour of all subjects, it is the royal will that every body should be happy and tranquil. Agreeably thereto, should any individual henceforth attack the property, life, or honor of any body, he will be judged, and the sentence of his condemnation, together with the proceedings of the trial, must be submitted—and should any individual have any wrong to redress, he will not presume to take the law into his own hands, but he will submit his case to the Governor of Mount Lebanon, or to the Governor of the Pashalic of Saida, who will refer it to the "Meglis" for examination.

*Beyrout, 16 Redjib, 1257. (September 3, 1841.)*

(Signed)

SELIM,

*Mushir of Saida.*

HADJI EDHEM BEY,

*Defterdar.*

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 14.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, September 7, 1841.*

THE Sublime Porte, in its anxiety that Mount Lebanon should be governed with moderation, that the inhabitants should take a part in the administration of their own affairs, and that they should be secured against the arbitrary acts of their rulers, has ordered that a "Meglis," or municipal council, should be formed, the same that has been established throughout the Turkish Empire.

The proposal was made by the Seraskier to the Emirs and Sheiks assembled on the 2nd instant, agreeably to the orders he had received from the Sublime Porte respecting its establishment; and the object to be gained by its formation was openly stated, namely, that of securing the people against the oppression of their rulers.

The Emir Beshir gave his immediate assent to it; and notwithstanding that the other Emirs and Sheiks followed his example, yet it was evident they were reluctant to establish an authority to which they would become amenable, and which would finally deprive them of the power of molesting and vexing their clients with impunity, without the latter having the means of procuring redress of any kind.

Whilst, therefore, they expressed their readiness to conform to the orders of the Sublime Porte, they put forward the difficulties that would attend, according to their opinion, its formation; and the Christian Emirs and Sheiks demanded at once that no less than seven of the twelve members should be Christians, namely, four Maronites, two Greeks, and one Greek Catholic; and that the remaining five members should consist of two Druses, two Turks, and one Mutuali. The Druses resisted this proposal, and refused to take any part in a Meglis composed almost of Christians, by which they would be left always in the minority, to the great prejudice of their interests.

The Maronites alleged, on the other hand, that as they formed the most numerous class of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, and consequently paid the greater portion of the revenue, they had a right of sending more members to the Meglis.

Emir Haidar strenuously advocated this right, and all the arguments adduced by Reshid Pasha and the Undersigned, to persuade them to relinquish it, and establish a Meglis upon more equitable principles, proved of no avail, Emir Haidar and the Maronites pretending that their Patriarch would not consent to its formation otherwise.

The discussions were prolonged with great warmth for some hours, during which time Reshid Pasha and the Undersigned made several proposals, which were rejected by the Christians; but who, convinced inwardly of the injustice they were doing the Druses, agreed finally to withdraw their original demand, and to leave it to the Seraskier Selim Pasha to give the orders he may deem proper for its establishment.

In consequence, his Excellency the Seraskier, after consulting with Reshid Pasha and the Undersigned, issued a bouyourouldi to the Emir Beshir and to the other Emirs and Sheiks, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, ordering the establishment of the Meglis, composed of eleven members, in the following manner:—

- 1 President. appointed by the Emir Beshir.
- 3 Maronites.
- 3 Druses.
- 1 Turk.
- 1 Greek.
- 1 Greek Catholic.
- 1 Mutuali.

To satisfy the Christians, they were told, as the Emir Beshir was a Maronite, he would undoubtedly appoint a Maronite to be his representative,

which would give them one member more than the Druses, who were, in their turn, given to understand, that as the Emir had the right of naming his representative, without reference to what sect he belonged, circumstances might intervene that may render the nomination of a Druse President necessary. In this manner, both the Christians and Druses left apparently satisfied.

The inhabitants of Lebanon are very favourable to the establishment of a Meglis; and I have been told that they have presented numerous petitions to the Emir Beshir, praying that one may be formed. Should any fresh difficulties present themselves, they must be attributed, as I have had the honour of stating above, to the apparent reluctance of the chiefs to see themselves deprived of the power of tyrannizing over the peasantry.

The members of the Meglis will receive a stipend according to the note inclosed in my other despatch of this day, and are to be assisted by a Secretary, who will keep a register of their proceedings.

The Emir's salary has been fixed at 25,000 piastres per month, being the pay of a Ferik, or Lieutenant-General: and all his other expences, including his Secretaries, Police, Deputy Governors, Judges, &c., are all to be paid by the Turkish Government.

The inhabitants of Lebanon have been more favoured by the Sublime Porte than any other portion of its subjects: their laws, privileges, and liberty have been secured to them, and the taxes are moderate. Everything now depends upon the Emir Beshir's conduct in carrying into effect his instructions, a translation of which I have the honour of inclosing in my other despatch of this day. With the best intentions, he has not, however, the requisite energy and tact to appease the minds of the people, and to quiet the dissensions that unhappily exist between the different sects inhabiting the Mountains, and which may lead to serious consequences.

All the Emirs and Sheiks who attended the meeting were presented with shawls, swords and watches; and Emir Haidar and Emir Ismail have had besides a small donation in money, as a part remuneration for the losses they have sustained, until their claims can be made known to the Sublime Porte.

All the Syrians who served during the war have been recompensed, and many besides, whose names I omitted inserting in the list, on account of their doubtful or weak claims to reward, have been allowed to partake of the generosity of the Sultan. Their Excellencies Selim Pasha and the Defterdar Effendi have done all in their power to give, in this instance, general satisfaction; and the former will leave Beyrout the moment I do so, which will be in a week, to visit the rest of his Pashalic, and even Jerusalem, with the laudable intention of examining the condition of the people, and of introducing such changes and ameliorations as may give them satisfaction.

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Inclosure in No. 27.

*Order for the establishment of a Meglis.*

(Traduction.)

*Beyrout, le 18 Redjeb, 1257,  
(5 Septembre, 1841.)*

NOUS vous prévenons que notre Magnanime Sultan, Abdul Medjid, a pris en considération tout ce qui regarde la parfaite tranquillité de ses sujets. Avant tout, il s'est décidé pour le bonheur de son peuple d'établir des Conseils dans tout son empire pour décider les disputes et discussions d'après les lois, afin que des inconvénients ni préjudices ne surviennent à personne.

Il a ordonné qu'un Conseil soit établi au Mont Liban pour décider les questions d'après les lois, afin que ses sujets jouissent le même bonheur qu'ailleurs; et comme le Mont Liban se trouve sous la juridiction de l'Emir Béchir, et que Son Excellence doit être le Président du Conseil, pourtant il ne pourra pas présider toujours dans le Conseil, mais il a le droit de nommer un procureur, auquel il sera accordé 800 piastres par mois de salaire. Les Membres du Conseil seront: trois de la nation Maronite, trois des Druses, un Turc, un Grec, un Catholique, et un Mutuali; et à chacun d'eux il leur sera accordé 500 piastres de salaire par mois; de plus un écrivain, qui aura 350 piastres par mois, en tout 12 personnes, qui font 6,150 piastres par mois.



Considérant les bons services et la fidélité de l'Emir Béchir envers la Sublime Porte, il doit être respecté et aimé par tous vous autres en général, et les membres du Conseil doivent être élus et nommés par la population.

Les questions qui seront jugées dans le Conseil doivent se décider sans la moindre partialité, les employés ne doivent accepter aucune gratification; en conclusion, on doit agir avec exactitude comme on l'attend par des sujets fidèles, et tous doivent faire leur possible afin que ces ordres soient strictement exécutés. Les décisions du Conseil devront être scellées des Membres, et copie sera prise de tous les documens dans le Journal de Conseil.

Vous autorités, vous communiquerez cet ordre au peuple, afin qu'il fasse des prières pour Notre Sultan.

(Signé et scellé)

MOHAMED SELIM,  
*Mushir et Seraskir.*  
HADJI EDHEM BEY.  
*Defterdar.*

(Translation.)

*Beyrout, September 4, 1841.*

WE apprise you that our magnanimous Sultan, Abdul Medjid, has taken into consideration all that concerns the perfect tranquillity of his subjects. Above all, he has determined, for the happiness of his people, to establish councils in the whole of his empire to decide disputes and discussions according to law, in order that inconvenience or prejudice should not happen to any body.

He has ordained that a council should be established in Mount Lebanon to determine questions according to law, in order that his subjects may enjoy the same happiness as elsewhere; and as Mount Lebanon is under the jurisdiction of the Emir Beshir, and as His Excellency should be the President of the council, notwithstanding, he will not always be able to preside in the council, but is entitled to name a substitute to whom a salary of 800 piastres a month shall be granted. The members of the council shall be; three of the Maronite nation, three Druses, one Turk, one Greek, one Catholic, and one Mutuali; and to each of them a salary of 500 piastres a month shall be granted; moreover, there shall be a Secretary, who shall have 350 piastres a month; in the whole, twelve persons, who make 6,150 piastres a month.

Considering the good services and the fidelity of the Emir Beshir towards the Sublime Porte, he should be respected and beloved by all the rest of you in general; and the members of the council are to be elected and named by the people.

The questions to be determined by the council are to be decided without the least partiality; the officers must not accept any gratuity; finally, they must proceed with exactness, as is to be expected from faithful subjects, and all must do their utmost in order that these commands be strictly executed. The decisions of the council are to be sealed by the members, and a copy shall be taken of all the documents in the journal of the council.

You, authorities, will communicate this order to the people in order that they may pray for our Sultan.

(Signed and sealed)

MOHAMMED SELIM,  
*Mushir and Seraskier.*  
HADJI EDHEM BEY,  
*Defterdar.*

No. 28.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.— (Received October 14.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, September 7, 1841.*

SOON after my arrival, I received the visit of the Maronite Bishop Tubia, who was sent by the Patriarch to felicitate me, and to communicate to me the Prelate's sentiments respecting the new arrangement to be made and the concessions granted by the Sublime Porte to the inhabitants of Lebanon.

Agreeably to his request, I furnished him with a memorandum of these arrangements and concessions, which consisted in twenty-one articles in favour of the Syrians in general; and although he expressed his sincerest gratitude for what their Excellencies the Ambassadors had been pleased to do for them, yet he objected strongly to the Tariff of Customs on silk, and to the establishment of a "Meglis" that was not composed mostly of Maronite members.

As the objections he made were on the part of the Patriarch, I lost no time in addressing that Prelate a letter on these points, urging him strongly to weigh the consequences before he withheld his assent to some of the arrangements made. He replied that he had instructed the Bishop Tubia to acquaint me with the reasons upon which were founded his objections, and added simply, that I should never be able to carry them through, since the difficulties to be overcome were insuperable. Copies of that part of my correspondence with the Patriarch I have the honour of inclosing herewith under Nos. 1 and 2.

Contrary to my expectation, I so far overruled the objections of the Bishop, who was delegated also by the Patriarch to attend the meeting of the 2nd instant, as to render his opposition immaterial, if not nominal, which enabled Reshid Pasha and myself to procure the adhesion of the Mountain Chiefs to the orders and directions of the Sublime Porte, in the manner I have had the honor of stating in my despatches to your Lordship of this day.

That the Patriarch, however, may have no motive to complain, and in order to convince him of the good result the Sublime Porte and their Excellencies the Ambassadors had a right to anticipate from the sacrifices the former had made at the suggestions of the latter, I waited upon him personally yesterday at his residence at Marshalita in Mount Lebanon, and remained with him several hours discoursing on these points.

He assured me that nothing had given him greater satisfaction in his life than the concessions procured for the Syrians by the Representatives of England and Austria; and that he felt how sincerely they ought to be grateful, both to them and the Sublime Porte, but he said that his objection with regard to some few points arose from the knowledge of the character of his countrymen, and of the spirit that reigned amongst the different factions of the inhabitants of the Lebanon, who would avail themselves of every trifling pretext to evince their discontent, and to shew their animosity against and jealousy of each other. He, therefore, felt very anxious to establish matters on such a footing as to leave them no cause for opposition to the Turkish Authorities, and of disagreement amongst themselves.

He admitted that the Tribute was moderate; and although we spoke several times respecting the establishment of the "Meglis" and the protection it would afford to the poorer classes, yet he never alluded to the number of members that would be sent to it by each sect; which omission leads me to believe he felt conscious that the Druses had the same right as the Maronites to send an equal number.

He is, however, of opinion, that the duties on silk and oil, according to the rate of the present Tariff, will ruin Mount Lebanon, for, according to some calculation which I could not understand, he pretended that it would have to pay 25,000 purses in duties alone on its produce, or about 8,000 purses over and above the legal and illegal taxes and impositions extorted from it by Ibrahim Pasha and the Ex-Emir. All my arguments to prove to him that the duties on the staple commodities of Lebanon could not affect the producers to the degree he asserted, but would fall on the foreign consumers or rich natives, who made use of the silks, whereas by the same Tariff the poor classes could procure grain 40 per cent. less than they did during the Egyptian administration, were of no avail; and he persisted in his assertion, which he offered to prove, if the Seraskier Pasha consented to the appointment of a special commission to report thereon, when, should it be shewn that his calculations were erroneous, he would order the duties to be paid by the people forthwith, but should the result be contrary to what I expected, he would then beg the Seraskier to fix the price of silk at a lower rate and calculate the duties accordingly. I promised to convey his wishes to the Seraskier, which I have had no time to do yet, and will do myself the honor of reporting the result to your Lordship.

It is singular that the Patriarch should insist so much upon this point, whereas, though some casual observations are occasionally made, yet I have not been able to detect any decided aversion on the part of the generality of the

people, to the present duties, which are, in many instances, favourable to them.

The Patriarch, who has desired me to be the organ of his grateful thanks to Her Majesty's Government for the important privileges and concessions procured through their intercession with the Sublime Porte, expressed a doubt whether the Druse nation entertained the same sentiments respecting their importance, and intimated his apprehension lest they should impede indirectly the execution by the Emir Beshir of the arrangements agreed to by all, in the meeting of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th instant.

I availed myself of the opportunity of observing to him that the concessions made and the privileges granted in twenty-one articles by the Sublime Porte, were or would be made known to Europe, and should the Syrians prove themselves by their restless conduct unworthy of the interest taken in their behalf, and of the sacrifices made by the Porte, they would incur the danger of losing the sympathy of Europe, which would be difficult to acquire anew, and the confidence of their Sovereign, who has placed them in a position to consider themselves the most favoured people in his dominions or, indeed, elsewhere,—a fact that he could not deny. I added, that Austria, but particularly Great Britain, had at heart the prosperity of the Turkish Empire, and would witness with regret any disorder that may be created by any portion of the Sultan's subjects, without a just cause or motive; whereas, I felt sure that Her Majesty's Government would always intercede with the Porte in favour of those who, deeming themselves oppressed, represented their grievances, and asked for redress with temper, as became loyal subjects. I begged him to expel any apprehensions he may have respecting the conduct of the Druses in their new position, for I had the most positive assurances from them that they would attempt nothing of themselves, but would apply to the authorities whenever such an application became necessary; and that, in short, I would guarantee their conduct, if he would do the same for the Maronites, who seemed to be the most unsettled of the two sects for the present. He did so, and assured me that nothing should be done that was not in perfect unison with the wishes of Her Majesty's Government and of the Sublime Porte.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

*Letter from Mr. Wood to the Maronite Patriarch.*

(Translation.)

Holiness,

*Beyrout, September 1, 1841.*

I HAVE had the pleasure of communicating to-day with Padre Rillo, from whom I learnt the opinion of your Holiness relative to the reduction of the duties on silk and on grain, which two points are deemed of importance in the fixation of the tribute of the mountains. I have, besides, perfectly understood all your observations respecting them; but your Holiness is well acquainted with the readiness with which I have undertaken from the beginning, the adjustment of the interests of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, by order of their Excellencies the Ambassadors at Constantinople, in all that concerned their tranquillity and peace. The proposals and arrangements made by them, and the concessions granted by the Sublime Porte in consequence, have received the sanction of their Excellencies in behalf of their respective Courts. These concessions were the more gratifying to them, as they scarcely anticipated so much benevolence on the part of the Sublime Porte, and which entitles it to the grateful thanks of the inhabitants of Lebanon. On my part, I have done my utmost to secure their interests; and, as I have had the honour to state previously what I intended doing, your Holiness cannot but see, in the present arrangements, the sincerity of my intentions. The Druses, perceiving the good intentions of the Sublime Porte and the willingness of the Turkish officers to come to an understanding with the chiefs of Mount Lebanon respecting the tribute, determined, notwithstanding their covert opposition, upon presenting an ostensible petition in favour of the Turkish interests, with a view of placing themselves in a more advantageous position,—which fact is well known to your Holiness. To prevent a fatal result, or, more plainly speaking, a civil war

between the Druses and Christians,—the inevitable consequence of any attempt to divide the government of Mount Lebanon,—I have used my utmost exertions to postpone such an unseasonable pretension, notwithstanding the risk I incurred of giving the Porte cause to believe we shewed more than a reasonable anxiety in all that concerned the interests of the Christians in this country.

In the supposition that any opposition is offered to the execution of the measures and arrangements made, the Sublime Porte will be justified in challenging their Excellencies the Ambassadors to point out any people of Europe that enjoy the same rights and liberty which have been ceded to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, before it made any further sacrifices and concessions; and, indeed all the Allies cannot but be gratified at the benevolence of the Sublime Porte towards the Syrians, particularly towards the inhabitants of Lebanon.

There can be no doubt but what they view the Tariff of Customs established by them differently from what is done here; and the conviction that the good intentions of the Sublime Porte and its concessions have met with the approval and consent of the Allies, forbids me from proposing further concessions, or making other demands, since your Holiness cannot be ignorant of all my proceedings, and the great trouble I have had at Constantinople in my endeavours to secure the interests of the Syrians from the commencement to the end. I cannot, therefore, hide from myself that any observations made in opposition to the arrangements entered into, may have the sole effect of aiding the proceedings of the adverse faction by confirming the impression of the Turkish Government, that we take an undue interest in the Syrian Christians, particularly in the Maronite nation, which is the most influential and numerous in these parts, thereby creating doubts and suspicions difficult to remove.

Persuaded of the esteem of your Holiness, as you must be persuaded of the sincerity of my proceedings in all that relates to the interests of the Syrians, I cannot but feel grieved to see facts that indicate a kind of opposition to the execution of my best wishes for them. These reflections have pressed upon me the expediency of stating the naked truth to your Holiness, particularly as the Turkish Authorities here have come to the conclusion that, with the best of intentions towards the Syrians, more especially towards the people of Lebanon, the result has been different from what they had a just right to expect. They have, therefore, determined upon waiting until to-morrow (2nd September) when, should the inhabitants of Lebanon refuse their consent to the payment of the established tribute, they would issue their orders for its collection, and wait to see the result before they demanded fresh instructions from the Sublime Porte to guide them in their future relations with Mount Lebanon.

Knowing this to be their intention, I have thought it proper to communicate it to you privately, for your most serious consideration, in the hope that your Holiness will issue the necessary instructions to the chiefs of the Maronite nation, to submit, and give their sanction at the meeting which is to be held to-morrow, and which I can delay only till mid-day. In this manner I shall have the inexpressible satisfaction of seeing realized my greatest desire—that of contributing towards the peace and prosperity of these districts. But should I be so unfortunate as to see my best wishes frustrated by an unreasonable opposition, I must declare openly my incapacity of procuring other concessions than those already granted; since my feeble power has been exerted already to its utmost. It would be, therefore, prudent to come to some conclusion, that the hopes I have raised by the public assurance I have given of the obedience and loyalty of your nation, may not be contradicted by their acts. Trusting your Holiness will be satisfied, I venture to hope that you will not oppose the present proceedings.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

*Letter from the Maronite Patriarch to Mr. Wood.*

(Traduction.)

Après les complimens d'usage.

Mon cher ami,

2 Septembre, 1841.

J'AI reçu hier avec un grand plaisir votre lettre, et j'ai pris bonne connaissance de son contenu.

Je désirerais avoir le bonheur de vous voir et de m'entretenir sur l'état des affaires du Mont Liban pour les obstacles qui existent, et que si je me serais mis à vous les faire connaître par écrit, cela n'aurait plus de fin. Pour éviter des mal-entendus, je vous envoie Monseigneur Tubia, pour s'entretenir avec vous et discuter ce point, mais jusqu'à ce jour je n'ai pas reçu de ses lettres sur ce sujet.

Par conséquent, je lui ai écrit de nouveau, le recommandant de vous communiquer l'impossibilité de pouvoir accomplir votre désir. De mon côté je ne doute pas que votre volonté soit autre que la tranquillité et les intérêts du Mont Liban.

J'espère que vous me donnerez de vos nouvelles, et dans l'espérance de vous voir bientôt,

Je suis votre ami,  
(Signé) YUSSUF HABESH.

(Translation.)

(A.C.)

My dear friend,

September 2, 1841.

I YESTERDAY received, with great pleasure, your letter, and I have fully understood its contents.

I should wish to have the happiness of seeing you, and conversing on the state of affairs in Mount Lebanon by reason of the obstacles which exist; and if I should set about communicating them to you by writing, there would be no end of it. To avoid mistakes, I send you M. Tubia to converse with you, and to discuss this matter; but up to this day, I have received no letters from him on this subject.

Consequently, I have again written to him, recommending him to communicate to you the impossibility of accomplishing your wishes. For my part, I have no doubt that you wish for anything but the tranquillity and interest of Mount Lebanon.

I hope you will let me hear from you; and in the expectation of seeing you soon,

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) YUSSUF HABESH.

## No. 29.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 14.)*

(Extract.)

Gazir, September 6, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that Mr. Wood arrived here on the 28th ultimo; he is vested with certain powers by the Porte; the Pashas are to take his advice, and consult him on particular subjects; and he is further empowered to settle the important question of taxation in the Lebanon. For effecting so desirable an object, he has been furnished by the Porte with two remedies, which in this country are almost sovereign; the first of which is, a considerable sum of money to pay the rewards for good service rendered in the last year's insurrection, by certain influential inhabitants of the Kesrouan, and a supply of watches and ornaments to be distributed in a similar manner; the second is a discretionary power granted to him, Mr. Wood, by the Sublime Porte, to modify the Tariff, the main cause of discontent.

By directions of the Pashas, and at the request of Mr. Wood, some of the leading persons at the meeting of Ainoob, which had now been assembled for about a month, proceeded to Beyrout, to hear and consider the proposals brought by Mr. Wood, and to come to a speedy settlement respecting them.

Mr. Wood did not make the deputies acquainted with his discretionary powers as to the Tariff; he appears to have been directed to make the best terms he could for the Ottoman Government with the Mountaineers, and to make use of his powers only as a last resource; but the fact that Mr. Wood, a servant of Her Majesty's Government, was entrusted with the settlement of the question of the taxation, and the general belief that his mission was undertaken with the sanction of the Four Powers, added, as your Lordship may easily imagine, a weight to his representations, and a support to his negotiations, the extent of which it would be difficult to calculate.

On Monday, the 30th ultimo, the deputies met. Reshid Pasha, Mustapha Pasha, and Mr. Wood, were assembled in one tent; the Seraskier and Defterdar, as authorities to be referred to, in another.

On Thursday, the 2nd instant, the deputies signed a paper, agreeing to pay a Miri of 3,500 purses annually to the Porte, abandoning their original plan of paying their Prince. The Emir Haidar made a very fair proposition, which was carried, that the Miri, or tribute, should be paid by the Sheiks as well as by the Fellahs, and, not as formerly, exclusively by the latter. The question of the Tariff appears to have been avoided as much as possible. Bishop Tubia restated his former arguments against it, which, Mr. Wood states, are void of foundation in every respect, except that the duty on silk is higher: but, in the articles of food, Mr. Wood states, that the ghararra of wheat, which under the Egyptian Government paid a duty of 50 piastres, is now only charged with something less than two piastres. The remaining deputies, influenced by the considerations which I have mentioned, did not even allude to the Tariff. The payment of rewards to some; presents of shawls and watches to others; but, beyond all, the idea which prevailed among them, that Great Britain, and the other three Powers, had determined to support the final arrangement, imposed silence on them,—I say silence, for I fear that it is only silence, and a very temporary one—and that the deputies themselves, still less the people, who have not been benefitted by presents or rewards, will not renounce the conviction which has been instilled into them by their Patriarch and his well-organized body of Priests (2000 in number), their Emirs and Sheiks, that in justice they ought not, and what is more that, in reality, they cannot, pay the Tariff. I foresee that the Tariff will, if not modified, still be the source of dissatisfaction; it may have been smothered, but it will break out afresh.

The events of last week have furnished a curious illustration of the character of the Maronite Sheiks, which I had the honour to represent to your Lordship at the close of my despatch of the 23rd July. The payment of a few thousand piastres, a watch or sword, stilled the voice of men who are considered to be stern patriots; I do not allude to either Sheik Naaman or the Emir Haidar. The personal services of those who, by their acts or their influence, supported the cause of the Sultan last year, have been paid, in part by instalment, and some, such as Sheik Francis, have been paid the whole amount: he received 20,000 piastres; but the proprietors who sustained actual loss, by the destruction of their property, have not yet been paid. I very much regret that the course which your Lordship recommended the Porte to adopt, "to cause a public enquiry to be made as to the losses which the people in the neighbourhood of Beyrout had sustained," has not been adopted. Every day fresh claims of this nature are preferred; no compensation has been granted to the unfortunate village of Beit Shehab, the entire of which was burnt by the Egyptians, because the inhabitants had gone to the coast to obtain arms from Her Majesty's ships. The Turkish Government have reduced, in many instances, the scale of rewards fixed by Mr. Wood, in order to meet, in some measure, the numerous demands of other claimants, and this curtailment, which was announced three days ago, has already revived the dormant patriotism of some of the attendants of the meeting at Beyrout, and from these very persons I already hear whispers as to the Tariff, and the probable displeasure of the Patriarch at the little consideration which was bestowed on it.

With respect to the Divan, I have the honour to state to your Lordship, that Mr. Wood states that it is to consist of three Maronites, three Druses, one



Antiochian Greek, one Greek Catholic, one Turk, one Mutuali, one Secretary, and one President, who may name a deputy. As that gentleman will, of course, have submitted to your Lordship an account of its functions, I will not weary your Lordship with a repetition. The formation of this assembly appears to have excited the old jealousies of the Maronites and Druses, and other sects; and after the conclusion of the matter of the Miri, long discussions took place respecting it. If the deputies do not agree, the Pashas are to give their final decision respecting it. I apprehend that the heterogeneous materials of which the Divan will be composed, will offer obstacles to that unanimity which is so desirable in legislative assemblies. In its twelve members, there will be five professors of different creeds, and six members of different sects, all of which creeds and sects have made themselves remarkable for centuries by their systematic dislike and jealousy of one another. The members are to be chosen by the leading persons of the towns and villages and country; it is not to be supposed, therefore, that these persons will send, as members to the Divan, those who will do away with their feudal rights and ancient privileges, for it is the leading persons of the country, such as the petty Emirs, the Sheiks, who are in possession of those rights. Mr. Wood is so aware of this, that, two or three times, he has threatened the Sheiks and Emirs that, if they continue to oppose the Divan, he would summons a meeting of the Fellahs, or peasantry of the plain of Bekaa, and there submit to them the proposal of the Divan, which would be of so much benefit to them, and thus, by the aid of the Fellahs, carry his measure in spite of the opposition of the higher classes.

Yesterday Mr. Wood proceeded to the Patriarch, and, in a seven hours' conversation with his Eminence, he found him and his two Vicars, as I foresaw, intractable on the subject of the maintenance of the Tariff in its present form. It was finally agreed between Mr. Wood and the Patriarch, that a Commission, consisting of one Maronite, one Druse, and one person of rank, to be named hereafter, should meet and receive the written statement of Mr. Wood in support of the Tariff; the Commission will then make their statements against it. Mr. Wood promised the Patriarch, that if he fails in proving his case, he will then make use of the discretionary powers granted to him by the Porte for modifying the Tariff.

### No. 30.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 30.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, September 16, 1841.*

THE Sheik Naaman informed me that he should leave Beyrout on the 12th September, for the Druse country, and hoped I would accompany him; I accordingly proceeded there on the 12th instant.

The next morning I visited, on my road, Sheik Hossein Talhook, a Druse Chief, whose arrest I had the honour to announce to your Lordship, in my despatch of the 3rd of May. He was formerly employed by the Ex-Emir Beshir, and is supposed to be in his interest. The Druses consider him a clever and a brave man. He is now in dispute with the Emir Melkhem, son-in-law of the Emir Beshir, and agent of the Patriarch's, respecting land in the Bekaa. It will give your Lordship some idea of the state of feeling and of affairs in this country, as well as of the weakness of the Government, when I inform your Lordship that a few days ago, this Sheik, with five hundred men, opposed near Beyrout, the progress of the Emir Melkhem, who, with three hundred men, was proceeding to the valley of the Bekaa, to take possession of the disputed property. The latter retired, but took another road to the Bekaa, where his attempt on the land was resisted by the few Druses who were in charge of the property. In answer to my question, why he had not settled the dispute by law, he replied, "The law of Nejb Pasha! I cannot afford to give the 7000 dollars which my adversary has already paid to him." In fact, in the Lebanon there is neither law nor government.

We then visited another Sheik of the Talhook of Beyseer, a head of the Akal or Enlightened Druses, to which class his son also belongs.

We then proceeded to Deir-el-Kammar, to the house of Mahommed El Kadi, the judge of the Druses, who had invited us. We met Sheik Naaman there,



on his way to Mooktara, also Nasif Bey, and Sheik Hamoud, joint governors of the district of Deir-el-Kammar. There were likewise Emin-id-Deen, or Guardian of Religion, a wealthy person, two deputies, Akal, from the Haouran, and two from Hasbeya and Rashcya. The two first had come to state to the Kadi the exactions of Nejib Pashia, and the two latter, to complain of the unjust mode of apportioning the taxes in their districts.

The Druses drew our attention anxiously to the fact, that their rulers, the Emir Beshir and the Patriarch, were of different religion from themselves. That they were of a nation, the Maronites, which, unfortunately, for centuries, had been in opposition, or had been placed by others in opposition to them; and that therefore, they could not expect from them that impartial administration of justice, which they could have done under other circumstances; that this feeling as to their position, constantly weighed upon and oppressed their minds, and that on these grounds, they begged me to represent to Her Majesty's Government, the great benefit which it would be to them, were they permitted to have at Constantinople, a Kapou Kiaja, or agent, which privilege had been accorded to the Emir Beshir and Patriarch.

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No. 31.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, October 30, 1841.*

I HAVE received your despatches to the 16th of September inclusive; and I have the satisfaction of acquainting you that Her Majesty's Government approve the measures which you report yourself to have taken for promoting peace among the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, and for inducing the various sects to pay obedience to the wishes of their common sovereign, the Sultan.

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No. 32.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, September 18, 1841.*

I HAVE frequently had occasion to draw your Lordship's attention to the animosity existing between the Maronites and the Druses, and I regret to say that on the 14th instant further evidence of it was afforded by an affray between these parties near Deir-el-Kammar, which was attended with the loss of five Christians and thirteen Druses killed, and eight Christians and sixteen Druses wounded.

The immediate cause of quarrel was in no way commensurate with the result. Two Christian inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar, only one-sixth of whose population is Druse, and the rest Christian, it being a feast, St. John's Day, went to the Druse village of Bakalein, two miles from that place, to shoot, and killed a partridge in a preserve belonging to Nasif Bey, the Druse Governor of the town and district of Deir-el-Kammar; the two watchers, Druses, beat the intruders, who retired, but having been reinforced by some of their companions from Deir-el-Kammar, for whom they sent, they, with fire-arms, assaulted the watchers and their friends who had come to their assistance. Fresh aid continued to arrive to both parties. The Druses drove the Christians across a ravine which separates the mountain on which their village stands, to the one which is opposite to Deir-el-Kammar, and keeping the high ground, as far as position went, had the advantage over the Christians, who fearful of being cut off from Deir-el-Kammar, kept the lower ground till they entered a wood, under cover of which they were enabled to cause considerable loss amongst the Druses, who were, also, fewer in number.

I had arrived in Deir-el-Kammar the day before, as I had the honour to state to your Lordship in my despatch of the 16th of September, and when I became aware of the serious nature of the affray, I requested Sheik Youssuf, the Christian Sheik of Deir-el-Kammar, to proceed with me to the scene of

strife, and exert ourselves to restore order. He declined to do so, stating that our doing so might have a contrary effect, and be misinterpreted.

The firing now ceased; and it was stated that the contending parties had retired to their homes. Shortly afterwards, however, it recommenced, owing, it is said, to the arrival of another party of Druses from a village in a different quarter, and who, coming on the flank of the Christians, fired on them. The excitement in Deir-el-Kammar became remarkable; women tearing their breasts and their hair, ran, some to the church, or crowded on the roofs of the houses, some with water and food to the combatants; whilst others from the houses, handed arms to the young men who were hastening to join their companions. The old men with arms proceeded to the roofs, in order to defend the town in case of an attack. Sheik Youssuf, with whom I was on a roof, became excited, and lost his head. He said that the Christians would be massacred; and gave orders to messengers to turn out the whole of the Christian population, to proceed to the succour of their brethren. I placed myself between the messengers and the staircase; and said, I would not permit such a mode of proceeding. I felt assured, that, with the assistance of a Druse and Christian authority, I could quiet the disorder. Although I was fully alive to the awkwardness of my position, and that my appearance in the affray might be construed into assistance on my part, to one or other of the parties, still I foresaw, that if the engagement, for it amounted to that, were not stopped, that it would most probably produce a general civil war throughout the Lebanon, between the Christians and the Druses: It was therefore worth while to run the risk. I told Sheik Youssuf that he must accompany me, and assist me in separating the combatants; that I would call on the Druse Kadi to do the same; and that together we would ride between the parties, when the Druse Kadi should use his influence with the Druses to retire, whilst Sheik Youssuf and myself would do the same with the Christians: he agreed to do so. On our way to the Kadi, we met one hundred and fifty Druses, all armed, marching in file, and singing their war-song, entering Deir-el-Kammar from a neighbouring village to proceed through it—Deir-el-Kammar—to join their companions who were engaged in the Mountains.

On their way they must have come in collision with the Christians, who were hurrying out of Deir-el-Kammar, and the conflict would have been sanguinary. I, therefore, with my horse's head, turned the leading files into a courtyard; the rest followed. I desired their leader not to allow his men to leave it, and he promised to do so. The Kadi, Sheik Youssuf, and myself, went to the place of conflict, which was about two miles off. On our way we overtook men running with their arms to the Mountains, and fell in with three or four parties, well armed, their Sheiks mounted at their head, proceeding to the same destination. We sent them all away; and after passing over the shoulder of the Mountain, came up with the Christians, whose superior numbers had enabled them to advance. The Kadi went, as agreed on, to the Druses, and I rode to the Christians, who were most advanced, on some rocky ground, and said to them the Arabic phrase, "If you love me, you will obey me." They answered, "We are your servants, and we will obey you." I then replied, "Let every man of you go back to his home." They said, "Wherever you go, we will go." I then took back three or four hundred of them to Deir-el-Kammar; and, in the meantime, the Kadi had prevailed on the Druses to retire to Bakalein.

I afterwards went to the Maronite Convent, and the Superior and Sheik Youssuf having begged me to make peace between the hostile parties, I sent for the Elders of the Christians, who had expressed their anxiety to see me, and obtained from them a promise that they would not allow any of the inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar to leave the town, or renew the conflict with the Druses, from whose chiefs I obtained, the same night, a similar promise, which they renewed again the next morning. As I was leaving the town a deputation of the Christians, with the Superior of the Convent and Sheik Youssuf, overtook me; they came to thank me, which they did with great earnestness, for having terminated the conflict, which, they said, must have become general throughout the country, had I not acted as I did; and they have also written me letters of thanks; but the encomiums which they bestow on me are so highly coloured, and so little merited by me, that I really am ashamed to send them to your Lordship. The Patriarch and Emir Beshir have also both thanked me. I took occasion to observe to the Christians and Druses, that entirely impartial, and unconnected as I was with either party, I should offer no opinion as to the origin of the

quarrel, but that I must observe, that I had felt the deepest pain in witnessing a bloody strife between Syrians, men who were neighbours, and ought to be friends, for whose benefit my country had made such efforts and sacrifices; and I added, that Her Majesty's Government had been engaged, and was still exercising, her just influence with the Porte, to obtain the adoption of measures which would contribute essentially to the happiness of the country; that these efforts would fail, and her wish to make them would be dangerous, if scenes such as I had witnessed to-day were to be repeated. This argument produced more effect on them than any other. In the communication which I had with the Druses and Christians in this matter, I became fully aware of the extent of their mutual aversion; I should say that the Christians expressed it more than the Druses. It was gratifying to see the respect that was paid on this occasion to the British uniform and character. Men who had never seen me before, with their passions excited, and who were engaged in a bloody contest, relinquished it, and obeyed me as if they had been disciplined soldiers, and I their commander; and afterwards both parties sought me, an utter stranger, and intreated me to settle their differences; and whilst they forcibly expressed their admiration and their affection for Great Britain and its Government, the sole point on which they seemed to agree, they declared that I was the only person whose warning they would have heeded, or whose mediation they would have accepted. There were nineteen Christians, Maronite Chiefs, and Elders of Deir-el-Karnmar, present at my last meeting with them, and there was no expression of gratitude and good will which they did not make use of towards Her Majesty's Government and servants.

The origin of the conflict was a partridge; but the real, although remote cause, may be traced to the inveterate dislike which has existed between Druses and Christians for centuries, which has been handed down from father to son, and which it has so often suited the policy of their rulers to foster rather than to check. The non-observance of the law in Syria, the total absence of police in the Lebanon, as well as military, the entire impunity with which the aggressors in the late disputes between Druses and Christians escaped, and which I had the honour to detail to your Lordship in my despatch of the 10th of August last, increased the readiness which both parties felt to gratify their dislike.

The great loss in killed and wounded sustained by the Druses may be accounted for by the numerical superiority of the Christians, which was in the proportion of two to one, and to their having been protected by the cover of a wood. Neither party had bayonets; and although they both showed courage, they did not seem to have any idea of charging. I feel convinced that neither party would have stood a charge. It is generally remarked, that in places where Christians are mixed with the Druses, that the former partake of the warlike qualities of the latter. Excitement still prevails between the Druses and Christians; both parties have endeavoured to obtain powder from their Maronite brethren in the Kesrouan, and the Druses sent for powder to Sidon; but their respective Sheiks have been exerting themselves to preserve order; and the Patriarch, who wishes that the Mountaineers should be united against the present system of taxation, has sent deputies of the leading people from the Lebanon to assist them.

The assembled Sheiks, Christians, and Druses, declared, that if any person committed a breach of the peace, they would instantly put him to death; a singular proof of the anarchy which made such a despotic use of power necessary.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 33.

*Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, September 23, 1841.*

MR. MISK the secretary of the Emir Beshir, who interpreted, told me that his Highness was determined to collect the tribute, according to the agreement made with the Turkish authorities, and signed by some of the leading Sheiks, as I had the honor to state to your Lordship in my despatch of the 6th September. Mr. Misk told me in confidence, that the Emir Beshir and the Patriarch differed in opinion upon this point. His Eminence, as I have already had the

honor to state to your Lordship, in my despatch of the 18th August, wishes that the Mountaineers should have in their own hands the management of the finances, and regulate the salaries and expenditure, paying the Emir Beshir, and the other Government officers, and giving a contribution yearly, of 1,200 purses to the Porte. Whereas, the Emir Beshir wishes that the whole sum, including the expenses of the Government of the Lebanon, and the tribute to be paid to the Porte, in all 3,500 purses, should be paid to him; he would then defray his own and the Government's expenses, including the maintenance of 100 horse, and 200 foot-men, and pay the residue, that is 1200 purses, to the Porte. His Highness justly observed, that if the Patriarch's plan were to be followed, he and his Government, would be entirely dependent on the will of the people, who might pay him and his subordinates, or not, as they chose; and that no person of birth or respectability would consent to rule on such terms. I was glad to see that his Highness had sufficient strength of character, to assert and maintain his opinion against that of the Patriarch. I think that a little management would induce him to relax the prejudices, which, as a Maronite, he feels towards the Druses. Mr. Misk tells me, that he likes the Sheik Naaman, whom I found with him, as well as another influential Druse Chief, the Sheik of Shoofaat. I endeavoured to impress on Mr. Misk, the advantage which would accrue to the Emir Beshir, from making gradual advances to the Druses; that by so doing he would remove heart burnings and animosities, which rendered that people, warlike and decided in character as they were, formidable opponents; and that this mode of proceeding on the part of the Prince was the more to be desired, because impartiality of Government, and the show of kindly feeling towards the Druses, who thought that they, as a people, were in a false position, and that they had but little chance of receiving such benefits from the Prince of the people whom they considered as enemies of their race, would operate more effectually in rendering them submissive, than coercive measures. I added, that in possession of the confidence of the Druses, the Prince's position with regard to his own people, the Maronites, whose allegiance to him is subservient to that which they render to the Patriarch, would be strengthened. Mr. Misk is well disposed towards the Druses, and he admitted the truth of what I said. The Prince goes to Deir-el-Kammar to-day, to reside there. This is likely to be attended with a good effect, because his presence and the force of 300 men which he takes with him, will check the tendency to difference which exists amongst the mixed Druse and Christian population of that district; and he will be removed in a measure from the influence of the Patriarch.

No. 34.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 1.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, September 27, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state, that I have received information from a very influential Druse, that proposals were very lately made by deputies from the province of Kesrouan to the Druses of the district of Meten, to join them in resisting the payment of the Miri, as agreed on by the meeting at Beyrout, and they promised the Druses, that if they would so co-operate with them, they should share part of the money which had been sent from France to the Maronites. To the Patriarch was confided the distribution of this money; to his Eminence must be ascribed wholly the systematic opposition to the resolution of the meeting of Beyrout; it is not, then, uncharitable to suppose that the communication of the deputies of the Kesrouan was sanctioned by the Patriarch.

The dissatisfaction caused by the partial distribution of rewards, of the non-payment of the promised indemnities to those whose property had suffered damage during the insurrection of last year, the non-modification of the Tariff, and the dislike to the new "Miri," have caused a reaction amongst the Maronites and their adherents, because these people conceived that all their causes of discontent would have been enquired into and redressed by the meeting at Beyrout.

No. 35.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 7.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, October 1, 1841.*

I AM happy to be able to inform your Lordship, that since the collision at Deir-el-Kammar, there has been no fresh outbreak, but the duration of tranquillity is doubtful, on account of the irritation of the hostile parties, and the inactivity of the authorities. The Druse Sheiks have assured me, that they have left no means untried to quell the angry feeling, and I know that they have done so. I have used every argument which I could command to induce them to continue their exertions; and I have also made suggestions to the Emir Beshir, which will, if carried into execution, I trust, contribute to the preservation of the peace.

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No. 36.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 7.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, October 1, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that great excitement prevails in this country on account of a report which is generally believed, and which was brought here among others by the officers of one of Her Majesty's ships, that the Ex-Emir Beshir or a part of his family, his son the Emir Emin is mentioned, has left Malta and proceeded to Constantinople. His Highness, by agents and letters, has announced that he is about to return; and the Mountaineers of all sects are firmly persuaded, that if he once reaches Constantinople, he will effect his return to this country and to power. I confess, that I cannot consider their apprehensions unfounded, when I reflect on the clever and intriguing disposition of the Emir Beshir, and on the means which he possesses by his wealth, which he would spend liberally in effecting his purpose, and on the improper appointments which I know have been obtained in this country and at Constantinople by means of corruption. His Highness, last year, when on board Her Majesty's ship which was to convey him to Malta, offered to Mr. Moore £30,000 to procure his return to power. I may add also, that the Turkish authorities in this country are not well disposed towards the present Emir Beshir, and that in all probability they have written in this feeling to the Sublime Porte. His Highness is certainly not suited to the times, as I have always had the honour to represent to Viscount Palmerston, and first in my despatch of the 3rd of May. Although weakened by age and infirmities, he is still a brave and honourable man. It is true, that traces of a government are scarcely to be perceived in the country, but the Emir Beshir, in answer to this grave charge, says, that he has never received any pay whatever to enable him to keep up an armed or police force, or even to pay the officers and petty governors, or any functionaries whatever, and that his power of checking disorder by prompt punishment as an example, is limited by the Hatti Sheriff of Gulhané, whereas his predecessor had an unlimited command of money and despotic power which he exercised unsparingly. It is true, that the Ex-Emir Beshir did maintain order in the country, but he did so by means of cruelties and a disregard of life which created indignation, and by a profuse expenditure of money, the fruits of exactions which have reduced numerous families to want, and have impoverished the country at large. His return to this country, although it were even unsanctioned by the British Government, would call in question its good faith among the Mountaineers. Two or three persons of note remarked to me the day before yesterday, "How can the ex-Emir Beshir go from Malta to Constantinople without the sanction of the British Government; he is there at Malta, and if he is not to come back, he ought to be kept there; but if he goes to Constantinople, we know well that he will come here." The restoration to power of the Ex-Emir Beshir would inflict misery on the Lebanon, it would enable that proud and vindictive person, uncontrolled, to gratify

his vengeance on the helpless Mountaineers who assisted to bring about the result which caused his expulsion from power. In his heart his Highness is still, as on all occasions he has proved himself to be, attached to Mehemet Ali, and with his disposition, however he may affect to be so, he will never forget the policy which Great Britain has pursued towards himself.

The adherents of the Ex-Emir Beshir have lately been so much at ease, and for two reasons.

1. Because at present, crime and disorder are unpunished, and there are those who prefer even the rule of his Highness to such a state of things.

2. Because his Highness's agents have declared so pertinaciously, that he is to be restored to power, that people begin to think it must be so, and because the reported arrival of his Highness strengthens this idea. The Mountaineers therefore seek, some by silence and others by a disavowal of their hostility, to lull the anger of one into whose hands they believe that their destinies are to be shortly committed.

Mr. Consul Wood stated, on his arrival here from Constantinople, that Her Majesty's Ambassador had obtained a promise from the Sublime Porte, that the Ex-Emir Beshir should never return to Syria; but for the reasons I have stated, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship, with the utmost deference, that it would be most desirable that the Ex-Emir should not leave Malta, for the state of doubt in which people's minds are at present in the Lebanon, causes much harm to the authority of the present Prince, and increases the excitement and agitation in the country.

I send this despatch under flying seal to Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Bouverie, in order that should his Excellency deem fit, he may prevent the departure of his Highness the Ex-Emir Beshir for Constantinople.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 37.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 6.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, October 7, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy and extract from letters dated the 26th and 30th of September, addressed to me by Mr. Consul Wood.

Your Lordship will not fail to observe that these statements coincide with the accounts of Nejib Pasha's conduct and policy, which at different times, since his Excellency's accession to power, I have had the honour to submit to the consideration of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I am aware of the high protection which Nejib Pasha enjoys, and of the peculiar obstacles which exist to his removal; but slender hopes must be entertained of the pacification of Syria, if its most extensive and most important Pashalic remain in the hands of a Vizier, who has disregarded the injunctions of his Sovereign in favour of his Christian subjects, and who has shown a spirit entirely at variance with the provisions of the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané, and with the known and expressed wishes of the Sultan's Allies; it follows then, that Nejib Pasha's ingratitude to the servants of the Power which restored Syria to his Imperial Master, must be a matter of little surprise.

I venture to represent to your Lordship with the utmost respect, that although the circumstances to which I have alluded render the dismissal of Nejib Pasha a matter of difficulty, it might be possible to effect his removal to another Pashalic, where the Christians, few in number, and differently situated, have not the position, or feeling as a body, acquired, in a degree, by the countenance bestowed on them by Ibrahim Pasha, which appears to have excited against them in Damascus, all the bitterness of feeling, which, as a firm believer in the Koran, Nejib Pasha nourishes against the Giaours, as his Excellency denominates the Christians.

Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins, when in Damascus, and Doctor Robertson, witnessed the severe beating of a respectable Christian by a Turkish soldier,



and he was told, that similar acts were of frequent occurrence, a circumstance not to be wondered at, as Nejib Pasha has made a point of cultivating the good will of the most fanatical Mussulmans, by refusing not only redress to, but inquiry into the complaints of Christians against Mahometans.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Colonel Rose.*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, September 26, 1841.*

I REGRET to say that Nejib Pasha continues to exercise the same malice against us which he evinced during Colonel Churchill's stay here. He has even reprimanded the respectable Turks of Damascus, who have called upon me. I am surrounded with spies, and can neither move nor speak, without its being communicated to him, with all the oriental exaggeration and embellishment. He is endeavouring, and has succeeded among some classes, to re-inspire them with the old fanaticism against the Christians and Europeans. I am afraid of a very serious finale indeed; and it appears to me that the irregular troops would join the lower classes in any tumult.

I hear nothing new from Nablous, except that the Nablousians are still meditating resistance. In Hebron, I am told, continual aggressions are practised against the neighbouring Arabs, who have recourse to reprisals. I hear nothing of the Pasha's intended excursion to Homs. It appears that the Chief of the irregular cavalry there has received orders to come to Damascus.

Five Sheiks from Mount Lebanon have been imprisoned coming from the Haouran, under the pretext of having murdered a man. The Pasha has referred their case to the Mehkemeh, but a witness is wanted, and has been sent for to the Haouran. I shall pay a friendly visit to the Pasha this afternoon.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Damascus, September 30, 1841.*

I WAS informed this morning, that Shibli-el-Arian has arrested at night Emir Said-el-Deen of Hasbeya, and has sent him with an escort to this city.

The Pasha has issued an order to the Emir to repair hither, but I believe Shibli has exceeded that order, unless indeed he had verbal instructions, and has arrested the Emir at night, like a criminal. Shibli-el-Arian repaired immediately to Hasbeya, and I am afraid will stir up the population to acts of aggression against each other.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) R. WOOD.

No. 38.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, September 15, 1841.*

THE Sublime Porte having requested Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to direct me to communicate officially with it respecting the execution of the arrangements made in favour of, and the concessions granted to, the Syrians, to which communications it will give the same value as if they were made by an official organ of its own, and will pay the same attention to those containing my observations upon subjects connected with the interests of the



Turkish Government in Syria generally ; agreeably, therefore, to the request of the Sublime Porte, and the directions of Her Majesty's Ambassador, I have addressed a letter to his Excellency Rifaat Pasha, relative to the conclusion of some of the affairs of Mount Lebanon, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 38.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Rifaat Pasha.*

Excellence,

*Beyrout, 8 Septembre, 1841.*

PRET à répondre au désir que votre Excellence a bien voulu exprimer avant mon départ de Constantinople, de faire mes rapports sur la conclusion des affaires du Mont Liban, d'après les ordres transmis par la Sublime Porte à ses hauts fonctionnaires y relatifs, je m'empresse d'annoncer à votre Excellence, qu'après des vives discussions avec les Chefs de la Montagne, ils ont consenti de payer un Tribut de 3,500 Bourses dont les 1,400 Bourses doivent être versées à la Trésorerie de St. Jean d'Acre, et les restantes 2,100 Bourses doivent être employées pour les frais de l'administration de la Montagne. Tous les Emirs et Sheiks ont signé un document à cet effet.

Profitant de l'assemblée des Sheiks, Chrétiens et Druses, à Beyrout, il leur a été proposé de former un "Meglis" à la Montagne ; mais comme par l'entremise de ce "Meglis," les Chefs ne pourront plus vexer les pauvres paysans, ils représentèrent plusieurs difficultés relativement à sa formation. Toutes leurs objections ayant été surmontées par des argumens difficiles à répondre, ils restèrent d'accord de suivre à la lettre les instructions de Son Excellence Selim Pacha sur son établissement.

Comme leurs Excellences Selim Pacha et le Defterdar se proposent de communiquer à la Sublime Porte tout ce qui a été fait d'après leurs instructions, ainsi que tous les documens authentiques qui ont rapport à ce sujet, je m'abstiens d'entrer dans des détails superflus. Les salaires des employés de la Montagne ont été aussi fixés, et votre Excellence aura une liste du nombre et de la qualité des employés, ainsi que le montant des appointemens de chacun d'eux.

Je me suis fait un devoir de proclamer à haute voix les bonnes et bienveillantes intentions que Sa Hautesse Impériale a envers les Syriens, et je me suis rendu avant hier chez le Patriarche Maronite dans la Montagne, pour lui expliquer verbalement combien lui, ainsi que sa nation, devraient être redevables envers leur Auguste Maître, qui, toujours prêt à protéger ses fidèles sujets, a bien voulu, par une bienveillance toute particulière, leur accorder des droits et des privilèges spéciaux.

Le Patriarche a exprimé sa plus vive reconnaissance, et garantit le bon ordre de ses nationaux.

Des récompenses ont été distribuées à tous ceux qui ont servi pendant la guerre, et qui ont mérité cette marque de la bienveillance souveraine.

Il ne reste donc qu'à payer les dommages commis par les troupes Alliées sur lesquels des instructions données à Son Excellence le Defterdar ont été fondées sur des rapports mal entendus. Ces dégâts s'élèvent à une somme de 450,000 piastres, et non pas à 15,000 piastres qu'il a été autorisé à payer seulement ; or, Son Excellence le Defterdar attend journellement des instructions sur ce sujet, qu'il est devenu indispensable que la Sublime Porte voulût bien lui transmettre.

Le seul point qui reste en suspens est celui des droits sur la soie, mais j'espère bientôt de pouvoir transmettre aussi à votre Excellence la conclusion.

Je me fais un véritable devoir de faire mention du zèle et de l'activité que leurs Excellences le Seraskir, le Defterdar, et Rechid Pacha, ont déployé pour la terminaison de ces affaires, qui ont été conclues à la satisfaction de tout le monde, et j'ose espérer que leurs efforts seront approuvés par leurs supérieurs.

Flatté de la confiance que votre Excellence a bien voulu me témoigner dans plusieurs circonstances, je m'empresserai toujours de répondre à tous les désirs de votre Excellence autant que mes faibles moyens me le permettront.

Agréez, &c.,  
(Signé) RICHARD WOOD.

(Translation.)

Excellency.

*Beyrout, September 8, 1841.*

PREPARED to answer the wish which your Excellency was pleased to express before my departure from Constantinople, that I should report upon the conclusion of the affairs of Mount Lebanon, according to the directions thereunto relating transmitted by the Sublime Porte to her high functionaries, I hasten to announce to your Excellency, that after animated discussions with the Chiefs of the Mountain, they have agreed to pay a tribute of 3,500 purses, 1,400 purses whereof are to be paid into the Treasury of St. Jean d'Acre, and the remaining 2,100 purses are to be employed for the expenses of the Government of the Mountain. All the Emirs and Sheiks have signed a document to that effect.

Taking advantage of the assembly of the Christian and Druse Sheiks at Beyrout, it was proposed to them to establish a "Meglis" in the Mountain; but since, by the intervention of this Meglis, the Chiefs will not be able any longer to oppress the poor peasants, they set forth sundry difficulties with regard to its establishment. All their objections having been got the better of by arguments, which it was difficult to reply to, they consented to follow literally the instructions of his Excellency Selim Pasha, with regard to its establishment.

As their Excellencies Selim Pasha and the Defterdar propose to communicate to the Sublime Porte all that has been done according to their instructions, as well as all the authentic documents relating to this subject, I abstain from entering into superfluous details. The salaries of the officers of the Mountain have been likewise settled; and your Excellency will have a list of the number and description of the officers, as well as the amount of their several appointments.

I made it my duty loudly to proclaim the good and benevolent intentions of His Imperial Highness towards the Syrians; and the day before yesterday I went to the Maronite Patriarch in the Mountain, in order to explain to him, by word of mouth, how much he, as likewise his nation, were indebted to their August Master, who, ever ready to protect his faithful subjects, has been pleased, by a very peculiar benevolence, to grant them special rights and privileges.

The Patriarch expressed his liveliest gratitude, and guarantees the good conduct of his fellow countrymen.

Rewards have been distributed to all those who served during the war, and who have deserved this mark of sovereign kindness.

Nothing then remains but to pay the damage done by the Allied troops, with respect to which the instructions given to his Excellency the Defterdar were founded on erroneous reports. These damages amount to a sum of 450,000 piastres, and not to 15,000 piastres, which only he was authorized to pay; consequently, his Excellency the Defterdar is in daily expectation of instructions on this subject, which it has become indispensable that the Sublime Porte should be pleased to transmit to him.

The only point which remains in suspense is, that of the duty on silk; but I hope soon to be able also to forward to your Excellency the settlement of it.

It is really my duty to make mention of the zeal and activity which their Excellencies the Seraskier, the Defterdar, and Rechid Pasha, have exhibited, in order to conclude these affairs, which have been settled to the satisfaction of everybody; and I dare hope that their efforts will be approved by their superiors.

Flattered by the confidence which your Excellency has been pleased to show me under various circumstances, I shall ever be anxious to fulfil all your Excellency's wishes, as far as my feeble ability will allow me.

Receive, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 39.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)*

My Lord,

Beyrout, September 15, 1841.

THE Ex-Musteshar Effendi established during my absence certain Excise and other duties on provisions and other commodities, which were levied at the gates of Beyrout, and which had to be paid mostly by the Mountaineers, who repaired to the town to make their purchases. This abuse created great discontent in the country, which so soon as it was made known to their Excellencies Selim Pasha and the Defterdar Effendi, they have issued a bouyourouldi to the Emir Beshir exempting the Mountaineers from the payment in future of any excise duties or imposts on provisions and other commodities and merchandise for their own use or traffick.

I have the honour of transmitting, herewith, a translation of the above-mentioned bouyourouldi.

As Mount Lebanon does not produce sufficient grain for the consumption of the inhabitants, they were obliged to procure this first necessary of life from distant parts of the country, liable of course to the payment of the old internal duties. At the special request of the Patriarch and of the Prince, I represented this grievance to their Excellencies, and have procured from them permission for the Mountaineers to purchase their grain in any part of the country, and transport it to their own without paying any duty whatever, provided they are furnished with a teskére or permit from any of the authorities to prevent fraud. This permission of their Excellencies has given great satisfaction to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 39.

*Bouyourouldi of their Excellencies Selim Pasha and the Defterdar Effendi  
to the Emir Beshir.*

(Translation.)

19 Djemazi-ul-Akhir, 1257.

THE Mountaineers, who are under your Government, having requested not to pay any duties upon articles they purchase for their use or consumption, as well as upon articles of the same nature which they purchase for the purposes of traffick, that is, on the importation and exportation of everything that is for their own proper use; and as the levying of duties on such articles is contrary to the will of the Sublime Porte, notwithstanding the orders already given to the officers to the above effect, we have again reiterated our orders to the Custom-House officers, whether of Beyrout or of other places, to follow strictly our injunctions, and to be on their guard not to levy or demand duties on provisions or on articles of dress appertaining to the above Mountaineers, be it for importation or exportation from or to any place whatever.

To this end we furnish you with the present, that you may communicate it to the aforesaid Mountaineers, that they may return thanks to our Sultan. Should any one of the Custom-House officers presume in future to ask for duties contrary to this our order, you will communicate to us the fact.

(Signed) MOHAMED SELIM,  
Mushir of Saida.  
HADJI ETEM BEY,  
Defterdar.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, September 15, 1841.*

AFTER the departure of the Emirs and Sheiks that attended the meeting held at Beyrout on the 2nd instant, the proceedings of which I have had the honour of stating to your Lordship in my despatch of the 7th of September, a few assemblies have been convoked in the mountains of Kesrouan and of Meten by the discontented and by the adherents of the ex-Emir, to adopt measures for frustrating the arrangements entered into and sanctioned both by the Turkish authorities and their own chiefs.

The peasantry have had, for a long period of years, to submit to the exactions of their Sheiks, who, up to the Egyptian invasion of Syria, assumed feudal rights over them as "Mukatagis," or lords of the manor. It was agreed, therefore, at the meeting, that the "Mukatagis" should receive a small stipend, and should levy besides 5 per cent. on the amount of the revenue, as a further remuneration for their trouble in collecting the public revenue; in consideration of which they should cease to make exactions and levy contributions on the peasantry.

This regulation, which was intended to protect the peasantry in general, has given some uneasiness to those of the Sheiks who hoped that, under the Turkish government, they would have been allowed to pursue unnoticed their former privilege of depriving their clients of their produce and of their money.

The assembly in the province of Meten, convoked by Emir Mousa, Emir Haidar's relative, and who betrayed him to the Egyptians, took into consideration the means of preventing the execution of the above regulation; but as many of the neighbouring chiefs refused to attend, the few that were present disagreed among themselves, and dispersed without coming to any resolution.

The assemblies in Kesrouan have taken a little more consistency from being indirectly supported by the heads of the Maronite Church, and their pretensions are, the reduction of the duties on silk, the execution of his Excellency Selim Pasha's promise that the district of Kesrouan should be exempted for three years from the payment of the "Miri," and that only 1,300 purses out of the 3,500 purses of the annual tribute, should be paid to the Turkish government, and the remainder should be employed towards defraying the expenses of the administration without the interference either of the local authorities or of their own prince. By this last pretension they hope, by withholding the money from the use of the Emir Beshir, to compel him to submit, in every way, to the dictation of the "Mukatagis."

On the subject of the duties I have written to the Patriarch, and I have thought it necessary to remind him of the consequences of their resistance, for it does not appear that the difficulties they make are based on very just grounds. The Patriarch in his reply, a copy of which, with my letter to him, I have the honour of inclosing, declares his intention of using his utmost exertions to assist in carrying into effect the orders of the Sublime Porte.

With regard to their other pretensions, I will do myself the honour of addressing your Lordship so soon as I can procure more correct information respecting their real intentions; but the re-establishment of good order in the mountains, and the carrying into effect the arrangements entered into, must materially depend upon the energy and intelligence of the Emir Beshir, who, though very well disposed, and the best among the other Emirs, is unfortunately deficient in these qualities.

There does not appear to exist a proper feeling between the Druses and the Maronites, who are jealous of each other. The former, who are not so numerous and somewhat weaker, are afraid of the latter, who again on their part have shown a determination to uphold their supremacy in the mountains at the risk of a civil war.

Some of the Mukatagis, both Druses and Christians, have endeavoured to fortify their position by establishing a better understanding between these two rival sects, but they have failed in their efforts; and although no great mischief is likely to result, for the present, from their mutual jealousies and sus-

picious, yet any trifling circumstance may lead to it. This is the more to be regretted, as so long as this feeling continues to exist between them, Mount Lebanon will be a prey to discord, and will afford a favourable opportunity, as it does now, to the enemies of peace to obtain their private ends by creating confusion and disorder.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 1 in No 40.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Maronite Patriarch.*

Eminence,

Beyrout, September 10, 1841.

I HAVE communicated to their Excellencies Selim Pasha and the Defterdar Effendi, the request of your Eminence that commissioners should be sent to the Chiefs of the Mountains to take into consideration the tariff, and to report their opinion whether Mount Lebanon will not have to pay more now than it did formerly, according to the present rate of duties on silk. The Defterdar Effendi replied, that he had made already the calculation, which clearly showed that the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon were in nowise prejudiced by them.

His Excellency added, moreover, that from 600 to 800 kintals of silk were shipped annually, according to the registers of the Custom-house; and supposing, therefore, that about 700 kintals were exported annually, the duty at the rate of the present tariff of 12 per cent. would only amount to 3,628 purses, and what with the enormous duties levied on silk exported to Egypt, and other internal or export duties or imposts paid here and there, it will be found that the sum total of duties paid actually on the silk of Mount Lebanon does not exceed the amount levied formerly.

At any rate, it must not be forgotten that the annual produce of silk in Mount Lebanon does not surpass 1,200 kintals, and as it is a rich article and an article of luxury, however heavy the expenses on it may be, they will have to be borne by the buyer and not by the seller, for the consumers will not care paying a trifle more, it being as aforesaid an article of luxury. But it is the necessities of life that concern most the poorer classes. For instance, the "ghararra" (measure of twenty kilos) of grain paid fifty piastres of "tasrih," an arbitrary duty, and six piastres of export and import duty, making in all fifty-six piastres per "ghararra," which is now reduced, according to the present tariff, to thirty-three piastres free of all other duties in the Turkish dominions. This is in reality what ought to interest chiefly the poor.

Nevertheless the Defterdar has sent Joussuf-el-Kardahi, agreeably to your request, to consult with your Eminence, and I have to beg of you, therefore, to take into consideration what he may say, that the affairs of the Mountains may terminate without anything serious occurring.

I have had the honour of assuring your Eminence that I have done, both here and in Constantinople, all that depended on me to further and secure the interests of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, in which I hope to have succeeded. You are undoubtedly aware that the revenue of Syria does not cover the expenses of the administration, and by reducing the revenue still more, the Sublime Porte will be compelled to lessen its forces in those parts; and with the present aspect of affairs in Christendom, which God forbid may lead to hostilities, the first cannon that is fired, Ibrahim Pasha may march into Syria. In the supposition of such an event, what with the individual disputes, differences, and discord among yourselves, a state of things may be brought about to the ruin and great prejudice of this country. But should not even a war occur, the Sublime Porte may deem it expedient for the security of its own interests—seeing that, with all its good and benevolent intentions, confusion and anarchy continue to reign in Mount Lebanon—to send governors (princes) that knew and will know how to govern the mountaineers, and who would gladly bind themselves to collect and pay even heavier taxes and a higher tribute than have been demanded at present by the Sublime Porte. In this manner the Lebanites will sacrifice their real interests and will lose the confidence of the Sublime Porte.

I sincerely trust, however, that your Eminence will take into your most serious consideration the foregoing, and with your usual ability adopt such measures as will remedy the present state of things, that no greater inconvenience may result from it. I have accomplished my task as far as it depended on me, and I must announce to your Eminence that the duties of my post call me away to Damascus, for which place I intend leaving at the beginning of the week; and trusting in your Eminence's perseverance to give a favourable conclusion to these affairs,

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

*Reply of the Maronite Patriarch to Mr. Wood.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

September 11, 1841.

I RECEIVED with infinite pleasure your inestimable letter of the 10th instant, the contents of which I have well understood. As regards myself, I have already assured you verbally, and I do so now in writing, that to the best of my power and ability I will not cease to exert myself for the accomplishments of all that regards the wishes and will of the Sublime Porte without exception. On the other hand, I am persuaded of your activity and zeal in all that relates to the well-being and prosperity of these parts, and I am grateful for your good consideration.

You acquaint me with your approaching departure for Damascus, to resume the functions of your office; but if you can possibly make it convenient to pass this way, that I may have the pleasure of seeing you, your first visit having been short, I shall deem myself happy.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) YUSSUF HABESH.

No. 41.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 6.)*

My Lord,

Damascus, September 30, 1841.

IMMEDIATELY on the landing of the Turkish troops in Syria, it was suggested to his Excellency Selim Pasha to exempt the district of Kesrouan, in Lebanon from the payment of any revenue for three years, which suggestion was adopted by the Pasha, and a written bonyourouldi was issued in consequence.

During my late stay at Constantinople, his Excellency Rifaat Pasha communicated to me your Lordship's note to Chekib Effendi, the Ottoman Ambassador in London, on that subject, and desired me to give him all the information I was in possession of respecting this promise, with which request I complied. His Excellency then said, that the Sublime Porte felt itself bound to abide by the promises made by its agents to the Syrians, and that he did not, therefore, object to the exemption of the district of Kesrouan from the payment of any revenue for three years.

On my return to Beyrout, I communicated the conversation I had with Rifaat Pasha to the Seraskier, and to the Defterdar Effendi, the latter of whom immediately authorised me to write to the Emir Beshir and to the Patriarch to state, that as he was entrusted with the finances of the Pashalic of Sidon, he freely consented to exempt the district of Kesrouan from the payment of any "Miri" for three years, with the condition, that its amount should be always mentioned in the public registers.

As the inhabitants of Kesrouan seemed to oppose the most the orders of the Sublime Porte respecting the "Miri" to be paid by Lebanon, I lost no



time in communicating this favourable determination of the Defterdar Effendi, in the hope they would forego an opposition which was not based on any reasonable or just grounds.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

## No. 42.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 6.)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, September 30, 1841.*

I HAVE the honor to acquaint your Lordship with the arrest of Emir Said-el-Deen, Governor of Hasbeya, who was conducted yesterday morning to this city under a strong escort of irregular cavalry.

It would appear that the notorious Chief Shibli-el-Arian had received secret orders from his Excellency Nejib Pasha to seize the person of the Emir, which he did at night in a village where the Prince was sleeping, unconscious of any danger. His purse, seal, arms, and part of his clothes, were taken away from him, and his seal was only returned to him twenty-four hours after his arrest.

All are at a loss to conceive the real cause of this harsh proceeding against a Prince who was formerly imprisoned by the ex-Emir for his loyalty to the Sultan, and in whose cause he acted so gallantly during the late war; but what renders this measure still more strange is the report that an Imperial Firman has just been received by Nejib Pasha, authorising his arrest and his exile to Adrianople.

Emir Said-el-Deen received his investiture of the Ex-Seraskier Izzet Pasha, at my request, for his military services, and has remained ever since faithfully attached to the English and to the Sublime Porte.

During my late stay at Constantinople, I received intelligence that Nejib Pasha intended removing Emir Said-el-Deen, Emir Effendi, and Emir Hangiar from their respective governments; and as these individuals had rendered great services, I stated them to his Excellency Rifaat Pasha, and begged that an order might be sent to Nejib Pasha to confirm them in their places, which request was complied with, and they were sent to their several districts accordingly, after they had presented a few horses to the authorities.

The Defterdar Effendi has complained to me in the course of conversation that the Emir had collected the revenue of last year, but had never transmitted it to the treasury; and although it is to be presumed that this will be made the ostensible excuse for his arrest, yet, after taking into mature consideration every circumstance connected with it, I beg to express it respectfully as my opinion that he has been solely sacrificed for us.

Nejib Pasha, anxious to give this affair the utmost importance it is susceptible of, has despatched an "estafette" to-day to Constantinople to announce his arrest, and has presented Shibli-el-Arian with 5,000 piastres as a reward for having taken into custody an inoffensive Prince, who was sleeping in a village at night with only six attendants, on his return home from a shooting excursion.

Emir Said-el-Deen was one of the very first who took up arms in defence of the Sultan at my demand, and at my promise, on the part of the Sublime Porte, that he should retain his government.

## No. 43.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 6.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, October 4, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state, that on the 14th ultimo a collision took place between the Druses of Bakalein and two other villages belonging to Sheik Naaman Djinblat, and the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar. The enmity of these two sects to each other is very great. They almost seek the opportunity of



evincing it, and I believe, in this instance, the collision originated in a dispute between some sportsmen. The following day the "sout," or cry to arms, was resounded from mountain to mountain; but, as I was crossing Mount Lebanon at the time, I despatched immediately messengers to the Bishop of Zahlé, to request he would prevent the Christians of his diocese from repairing to the scene of action; and I wrote a letter to the Emir Said-el-Deen of Hasbeya, in Anti-Lebanon, to disperse the Druses that had collected for the same purpose.

The Bishop of Zahlé, on the receipt of my letter, came immediately to meet me, but unfortunately missed me on the road. He has since written to say that he has used his utmost exertions to appease the Christians, and that he will continue to do the same until matters are arranged between them.

The Emir Said-el-Deen states, in his reply, which I have the honour to inclose herewith, that he finds the Druses extremely difficult to manage on account of the assistance they receive from three Druse Sheiks, who are protected by the Government, and demands to know in what manner he is to proceed.

Great confusion and excitement seems to exist also in the mountains of Nablous. Nejib Pasha appointed, at the death of Soliman Effendi, the Governor of Nablous, Mohamed Effendi, his brother, to the vacancy, much against the wish of the Nablousians, to whom the family of Abdul Hadi is particularly obnoxious, on account of their tyranny during the Egyptian Administration. The other Sheiks, dreading the consequences of this new appointment, commenced instantly to fortify themselves in their villages by re-constructing the forts that were demolished by Ibrahim Pasha. The Governor, Mohamed Effendi, marched immediately against them, and as the peasants shut themselves up in them, he had recourse to force. Sheik Berkawy, one of the principal Sheiks of Nablous, fell into his hands, and is now in the prison of Damascus.

The Arabs of the tribe of Sahr took advantage of this partial disorder to pillage some villages. The Nablousians met them near Ghor, where an action was fought, and they were beaten, notwithstanding they were supported by a body of irregular cavalry. Abdallah-el-Hussein, son of the deceased Governor, and Mahmoud Effendi, his uncle, took refuge, with about thirty of his followers, in one of the villages of Nablous; but such is the feeling against that family, that the inhabitants availed themselves of the confusion to murder the former, with his attendants, and to wound the latter in his attempt to escape.

Nejib Pasha, I am informed, had ordered this attack, but he has since addressed a severe letter to Salih Bey, to reprimand him, with the view, it is supposed, of escaping all blame for this untoward event. He has also written to Selim Pasha, the Seraskier, to take the necessary measures either for driving back the Arabs or for arranging this affair with them.

Salih Bey is the Sub-Governor of Djenin, and the brother of Mohammed Effendi, the Governor of Nablous. They are of the family of Abdul Hadi, and notwithstanding that both held command in the Egyptian army up to the evacuation of Gaza, Nejib Pasha has thought proper to give them appointments of importance to the exclusion of other Chiefs who have suffered for many years for their adherence to the Sultan.

I have been informed this instant, confidentially, that Tahar Pasha, of Jerusalem, has presented innumerable complaints against Mohamed Effendi, the principal of which are, his attempt to revolutionize the mountains of Jerusalem, and his wanton attacks and pillage of some villages within the jurisdiction of that pashalic. Tahar Pasha states, that Mohamed Effendi is stationed with the peasantry on that border, waiting the return of the poor inhabitants he has driven out of their dwelling, to seize them, and demand his (Mohamed Effendi's) recall and disgrace; without which, he asserts, he cannot govern his pashalic, and dreads worse evils. Nevertheless, Nejib Pasha has taken no notice of this appeal to his better judgment, but has merely addressed a letter to Mohamed Effendi ordering him to withdraw to Nablous, and to state the circumstances of his conduct; so determined is the Pasha of protecting and employing in the south of Syria the old adherents of the Egyptian misrule.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 43.

*The Emir Said-el-Deen to Mr. Consul Wood.*

After the usual compliments.

11 Shewal, 1257 (Sept. 26, 1841).

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter relative to the unfortunate collision that has taken place in the mountains between the Druses and the Christians, wherein you are pleased to state that intelligence has reached you that the Druses and the Christians of Hasbeya were preparing to repair thither to give assistance; that you regretted it exceedingly, since their unreasonable interference could only increase the evil, would cause a greater effusion of blood, was contrary to your wish, and that the people of Hasbeya could have no cause for interference, being of a distant province, &c. You desire me, therefore, to use my utmost endeavours to prevent any one from hence from repairing thither, that these disturbances may not spread from place to place. The above is in brief the contents of your letter. It is very correct, my esteemed friend, that this disturbance has occurred in the mountains, as you have been informed; but that its contagion should have reached the Druses and the Christians of Hasbeya, is owing to three Druse Sheiks of this place, who are the very essence of disorder in these parts from an old date—namely, Sheik Emin Shems, Sheik Mustafa Kaïs, and Sheik Mohamed Kaïs.

Sheik Emin Shems went to the mountains, accompanied by his brother, Sheik Halil Shems. The former, who has left his brother in Lebanon, returned to Hasbeya, and commenced immediately to sow discord between the Druses and the Christians, by attempting to lessen the share of the taxes to be paid by the former, and adding them to the latter, over and above their share, in order to create dissension. The Christians refused to accede to this proposition, and it was only after he had reached Hasbeya that the seditious movements occurred in the mountains. The moment that your sincere friend heard of it, I lost no time in assembling the principal Druses and Christians, and ordered them not to interfere, since it was no affair of their own. I endeavoured to frighten them, by showing them the consequences of drawing the anger of the Government upon them, and of the consequences of drawing upon themselves revenge. I repeated this to them daily, and doubt not, my beloved and valued friend, that had I not taken this course, and had I not continued to frighten them daily, most certainly these disturbances would have extended to these parts. Notwithstanding these three individuals did not remain quiet until Sheik Mohamed Kaïs, accompanied by Sheik Hassan Ferhan, went to the mountains, unknown to me, and I was only informed of it by some people returning from Lebanon. Truly this affair makes me unhappy for one reason only—and that is, that while I see, and am convinced, that the origin of this disturbance is Sheik Mustafa Kaïs and his companions, I cannot punish them according to our old customs, since my hands are tied by the Government, which has recommended him and the other Druse Sheiks to me. The result is, they are fearless of all consequences; but if I had it in my power to exile them and other persons of a similar character to a distant place, it would serve as an example to their equals, and every disorder would cease, both now and in future. I am vexed the more about it, for were I to mention it to the Government it would imagine that my representations were in opposition to its recommendation of them. I have to beg, therefore, you will have the goodness to communicate to me your opinion respecting this affair, and how I am to proceed in it, for it is impossible that things can go on well so long as these persons are allowed to remain.

With regard to the Christians, the moment they perceived the intention of the Druses to quarrel with them, and to load them with the greater part of the taxes, in consequence of the encouragement they received from Shibli-el-Arian, who encouraged their enmity towards them, they (the Christians) refused to accede to the proposition, and presented a petition to the Government praying that they may not be made to suffer from such an imposition, and that the tithes should not be divided and fixed upon the number of persons, but should be levied on the produce in proportion to each man's landed property, according to the Tanzimati Hairiyé, either in kind or in money. The Druses, accompanied by Shibli-el-Arian, went to Damascus and pre-

sented a petition against the Christians. Hassan Bey was, in consequence, sent to investigate and arrange this affair; but as he did not succeed, both the Druse and Christian Sheiks have repaired to Damascus to refer their differences to the Council, which has terminated nothing. Begging that you will be pleased to communicate to me your opinion also on this subject, that I may conform my proceedings accordingly,

I have, &c.,  
(L.S.) SAID-EL-DEEN SHEHABY.

No. 44.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 6.)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, October 4, 1841.*

IN my despatch of the 15th September, I had the honour of stating that so soon as I could procure correct information relative to the further demands and concessions persisted upon by the mountaineers of Lebanon, I would communicate them to your Lordship.

I have since received authentic accounts of their pretensions, which are :

1st.—That Mount Lebanon should pay only 1,000 purses to the Turkish Government; that with regard to the expenses of the Administration, the mountaineers would come to some indirect arrangement with the Prince, without the concurrence or interference of the Turkish authorities; that they should be reduced, and that the revenue of the “bekaliks,” or crown lands, should form a part of the 1,000 purses.

2ndly.—That the duties on silk should be reduced to 7½ the oke, and those on oil to 20 piastres the kintal; and,

3rdly.—That the excise duties levied at the gates of the town should be abolished.

I am further informed that the Defterdar Effendi was on the point of assenting to the reduction of the duties on oil, and that he wished the Prince to come to some secret arrangement respecting the reduction of the expenses of the Administration. These expenses amount, as I have had the honour of stating them in my despatch of the 7th September, to 2,100 purses, and are already inadequate for the Administration. They do not amount to one-fourth of the expenses of the Ex-Emir, notwithstanding that he had the assistance of the whole Egyptian army to support him in carrying through the orders of the Government. But the intention of the Patriarch, and some of the Sheiks, appears to be to place the Emir in such a pecuniary position as to be wholly dependent upon them, and thereby control all his acts; an intention which, if successful, will throw the Government of the Mountain into great disorder.

With regard to the duties on silk, his Excellency Rifaat Pasha had communicated to me a letter to the Defterdar Effendi, by which he was authorized to reduce the price of silk from 120 to 100 piastres the oke, and to calculate the duties accordingly, which would slightly reduce their amount; but when I advised the Defterdar to conform to that instruction, he denied having any such authority, and produced Rifaat Pasha's letter, which certainly did not mention the afore-mentioned reduction on the price of silk, but merely directed him to come to some arrangement. Though the sense of the letter was nearly the same, yet it would appear that the wording of it had been altered; and the Defterdar, in consequence, refused to accede to my suggestion, on the ground that the price of silk, which had been fixed at 120 piastres the oke, was already 150 piastres, which statement is correct; and argued, that although the duties on silk exported to Europe were only 2 per cent., yet, as the duties on the same article exported to Egypt amounted to 22 per cent., the loss in the first instance would be counterbalanced by the advantage gained in the second; and that, finally, the duties would have to be borne by the speculators, and not by the cultivators.

Respecting the excise duties, they have been already abolished, as I have had the honour of communicating to your Lordship in my report of the 15th September last.

All these difficulties, after the understanding of the local authorities with

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the Emirs and Sheiks at Beyrout, have been put forward by the Maronite Patriarch in secret.

The Prince, who is aware of the intrigues of the Patriarch, has written to him on the subject ; but his reply, a copy of which I have the honour of enclosing herewith, is evasive and unsatisfactory ; and I look upon Emir Haidar's letter to the Prince as expressive of this Prelate's real sentiments and feelings, so contrary to those he ought to entertain towards the Sublime Porte, after the many benefits that it has conferred upon him and his nation.

The Emir Beshir, who is aware that all these intrigues are directed against his authority with the view of rendering his power nominal and ineffective, is determined on executing his orders, which his Excellency conceives to be just and proper ; and has written in consequence a letter to the Seraskier and to the Defterdar, a translation of which I have the honour to transmit herewith, to apprise them of his intention to collect a part of the tribute, and to request that some troops should be collected at the environs of Saida and Beyrout, to intimidate the refractory into obedience.

The Secretary of the Emir Beshir has just communicated to me the resolution of the Prince, to commence collecting the 1,200 purses for the Turkish Government, that no delay may occur in the payment of the tribute until he can make, in the sequel, arrangements respecting the expenses of the Administration. He has adopted the more readily this resolution, on account of the difficulty of assembling a sufficient body of troops to intimidate those that are disposed to resist.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

*Letter of the Maronite Patriarch to the Emir Beshir.*

Après les complimens d'usage.

*Le 15 Septembre, 1841.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir votre lettre dans laquelle j'observe que Votre Excellence s'est convaincue de l'embarras que j'ai eu, et de la peine que j'ai prise, pour appaiser la population de cette montagne, et Votre Excellence nous ordonne qu'il est nécessaire de s'occuper de ces affaires pour éviter des réprimandes de la Sublime Porte qui pourraient s'ensuivre à cause de la mauvaise volonté des Chrétiens et des Druses, et vous désirez par conséquent que je vous envoie l'Evêque Pierre Carami pour s'entendre avec Votre Excellence sur vos procédures et vos bonnes intentions à l'égard du bien-être du public et pour ma propre satisfaction.

Vous désirez de plus que je fasse tout mon possible pour faire entendre raison à la population pour leur propre tranquillité. Enfin j'ai compris tout ce que vous m'ordonnez à tel sujet.

Quant à l'embarras dans lequel je me suis mis, il est à la connaissance de Votre Excellence, et je crains que cet embarras augmentera ; et quant aux conséquences, je ne peux concevoir pour quelle raison je dois les craindre, puisque je ne suis pas en état de pouvoir faire plus de ce qui peut dépendre de moi. Jusqu'à présent vous avez connu mon activité en tout ce qui regarde la volonté de la Sublime Porte, mais il n'est pas de ma faute si je n'ai pas pu réussir à faire exécuter tous ses désirs.

Votre Excellence sait très bien que l'Evêque est dans l'impossibilité de voyager, et ensuite je ne vois pas l'urgence qu'il se présente à Votre Excellence selon vos désirs. Tant lui que moi, nous sommes convaincus de vos bonnes intentions, mais que sert-il, lorsque la population ne veut pas entendre raison ?

Quant à moi je suis pleinement convaincu que vous n'entretenez que de bonnes intentions envers le peuple, et que vous n'avez d'autre désir que d'être agréable aux habitans du Mont Liban.

Je relève par votre lettre et billet, que Votre Excellence n'est pas tout-à-fait convaincu que je ne puis pas faire entendre raison au peuple, mais j'espère qu'à l'avenir vous saurez la pure vérité.

(Signé et scellé)

YUSSUF HABESH.

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

September 15, 1841.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter, in which I perceive that your Excellency is convinced of the embarrassment which I have had, and of the trouble which I have taken, to pacify the people of this mountain, and your Excellency enjoins me that it is necessary to attend to these matters in order to avoid the reprimands of the Sublime Porte, which might ensue in consequence of the ill-will of the Christians and of the Druses; and you therefore desire that I should send to you the Bishop Pierre Carami to communicate with your Excellency as to your proceedings and your good intentions with regard to the welfare of the public, and for my own satisfaction.

You moreover desire that I should do my utmost to cause the people to listen to reason for their own tranquillity. In short, I have understood all that you enjoin me on this matter.

With regard to the embarrassment in which I have placed myself, that is known to your Excellency, and I fear that this embarrassment will increase; and with regard to the results, I cannot conceive wherefore I should apprehend them, since I am not in a state to be able to do more than what depends on me. Up to this time you have known my activity in everything which concerns the will of the Sublime Porte, but it is not my fault if I have not succeeded in causing her wishes to be executed.

Your Excellency is well aware that the Bishop is incapable of travelling, and moreover, I do not perceive the urgency of his presenting himself to your Excellency as you wish. Both of us are satisfied of your good intentions, but what good is that when the people will not listen to reason?

As for me, I am fully convinced that you have only good intentions towards the people, and that you have no other wish than to be agreeable to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon.

I gather from your letter and note, that your Excellency is not altogether convinced that I am unable to make the people listen to reason, but I hope that hereafter you will know the exact truth.

(Signed and sealed)

YUSSUF HABESH.

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 Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

*Letter from the Emir Haidar of Solima to the Emir Beshir.*

(Traduction.)

Après les compliments d'usage.

APRES la décision qui a eu lieu à Beyrout, plusieurs Sheiks de la maison de Hazen m'ont accusé devant le Patriarche d'avoir accédé aux demandes de la Sublime Porte; ils disent qu'on espérait de diminuer les dépenses de l'administration, et ils prétendent que nous étions entendus avec votre Excellence et le Sheik Naaman Djinblat, d'avance. Le Patriarche après cela, s'est dégoûté de moi. Je lui ai envoyé mon Secrétaire pour lui faire le compliment de ce que la Sublime Porte lui avait envoyé une décoration, et de s'informer sur l'état des affaires. Mais à son retour j'ai appris de lui, que le Patriarche était vexé contre moi, et qu'il ne me croyait plus digne de son estime; que de plus, je me suis fait mal à moi-même, et que je ne devais plus me considérer parmi ses confidens. Enfin, il a usé à mon égard les expressions les plus amères pour avoir accepté les conditions de la Sublime Porte, parceque je n'ai point pris en considération que les dépenses de l'administration du Mont Liban ne devraient pas être connues par le Gouvernement Turc.

Je suis peiné que malgré que j'ai fait tout mon possible pour défendre les intérêts de la Montagne, et m'être mis dans une mauvaise position en dégoûtant les Autorités Turques, je me trouve dans ce moment-ci mal vu par tous.

Les Princes du Meten, Falluga et Carnayel, ont signé un document d'accord avec le Patriarche, à l'effet que ceux qui ont accédé à Beyrout aux propositions faites par la Sublime Porte, devraient seuls les remplir; mais j'ai écrit

pourtant à mon neveu le Prince Emin, de lui demander s'il comptait tenir sa parole, mais il me répond qu'il s'est mis d'accord par force avec les autres.

J'ai déjà communiqué à votre Excellence qu'une réunion eut lieu au Meten, il y a deux jours, et que deux personnes du Kesrouan y ont assisté et se sont mis d'accord avec la plupart des habitants, en jurant que Chrétiens et Druses ne payeront plus de 1,200 bourses : ils ont bien parlé contre moi et contre ceux qui ont signé le document à Beyrout. Je me trouve obligé de prévenir votre Excellence de ce fait, afin que vous fassiez quelques concessions, comme il est à votre connaissance très bien, de qui provient cette résistance (du Patriarche Maronite).

Je crois qu'on pense agir contre votre Excellence pour faire venir l'ex-Emir Béchir. J'ai envoyé dire au Patriarche que c'était bien vrai qu'il avait entendu les paroles de l'Evêque Tubia et d'autres sans les peser, mais qu'il aurait dû entendre mieux mes idées ; je crois que ses amis veulent m'embrouiller avec lui. Je suis bien peiné de ce fait, étant bien connu et ayant eu déjà une bonne réputation, et après toutes les peines et fatigues que j'ai prises. Quant à moi, je désire contenter le Patriarche, mais je ne permettrai jamais que mon honneur soit molesté, si même je perdais ma vie.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

(Signé)

EMIR HAIDAR.

P.S. Je viens d'apprendre que le Patriarche veut contenter la Sublime Porte en tout ce qui dépendra de lui, sans sacrifier pourtant les intérêts du Mont Liban. Il est très attaché à votre Excellence, mais les intriguans ne cessent de l'embrouiller pour obtenir leur désir, et, par conséquent, ils agissent avec finesse pour gagner de l'influence auprès du Patriarche. Enfin, il faut avoir patience.

E. H.

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

AFTER the decision which was adopted at Beyrout, several Sheiks of the house of Hazen accused me before the Patriarch of having acceded to the demands of the Sublime Porte ; they say that it was hoped to diminish the expence of the administration, and they pretend that we had come to an understanding beforehand with your Excellency and Sheik Naaman Djinblat. After this the Patriarch took a disgust at me. I sent my Secretary to him to compliment him upon the Sublime Porte having sent to him a decoration, and to inquire into the state of affairs. But on his return I learnt from him that the Patriarch was offended with me, and that he no longer thought me worthy of his esteem ; that, moreover, I had done myself an injury, and that I must no longer consider myself to be in his confidence. Lastly, he made use of the bitterest expressions with respect to me, because I had accepted the conditions of the Sublime Porte ; since I had not considered that the expenditure for the administration of Mount Lebanon ought not to be known by the Turkish Government.

I am grieved that notwithstanding that I have done my utmost to defend the interests of the Mountain, and have placed myself in a bad position by disgusting the Turkish Authorities, I am at the present moment badly looked upon by all parties.

The Princes of Meten, Faluga, and Carnayel, have signed a document in concert with the Patriarch, to the effect that those who agreed at Beyrout to the propositions made by the Sublime Porte, ought alone to fulfil them ; but I have, however, written to my nephew, the Prince Emin, to ask him whether he proposed to keep his word, but he replies to me that he agreed with the others from constraint.

I have already communicated to your Excellency that a meeting took place at Meten, two days ago, and that two persons of the Kesrouan were present at it, and agreed with the majority of the inhabitants, swearing that the Christians and the Druses will not pay more than 1,200 purses ; they spoke strongly against me and against those who signed the document at Beyrout. I am obliged to apprise your Excellency of this circumstance, in order that you may make some



concessions, since you well know from whom this resistance proceeds (the Maronite Patriarch.)

I imagine that it is designed to act against your Excellency, in order to effect the arrival of the ex-Emir Beshir. I have sent to tell the Patriarch that it ~~was~~ very true that he had listened to the words of Bishop Tubia and others without weighing them, but that he ought to have understood my sentiments better; I think that his friends are desirous of effecting a quarrel between him and me. I am much grieved by this circumstance, being well known, and having already enjoyed a good reputation, and after all the trouble and toil which I have taken. As for me, I desire to content the Patriarch, but I will never allow that my honour should be affected, even if I were to lose my life.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) EMIR HAIDAR.

P.S.—I have just learnt that the Patriarch is desirous of satisfying the Sublime Porte as far as depends on him, without, however, sacrificing the interests of Mount Lebanon. He is much attached to your Excellency, but intriguing persons do not cease to get him into trouble, in order to obtain what they desire, and consequently they act with subtlety, in order to acquire influence with the Patriarch. After all, it is necessary to have patience.

E. H.

Inclosure 3 in No. 44.

*Letter of the Emir Beshir to Selim Pasha and the Defterdar Effendi.*

(Traduction.)

Après les complimens d'usage.

29 Regeb, 1257. (16 Septembre, 1841.)

JE prends la liberté de prévenir vos Excellences que les réglemens qui ont été fixés dans l'assemblée tenue à Beyrout devant vos Excellences, et dont tous les Emirs et Sheiks ont accepté et même signé les documens nécessaires, ont déplu aux Montagnards, et ils ont déclaré qu'ils ne les accepteraient nullement, comme ils avaient un tarif à payer. Plusieurs réunions ont eu lieu par conséquent entre les Chrétiens et les Druses, et nous avons envoyé de suite des ordres à nos amis les chefs, de ne pas faire cas à ces on dits, et de faire entendre raison au peuple. Nous avons envoyé aussi des gens partout, qui nous ont fait savoir que ce n'est que quelques Sheiks qui sèment la discorde, et excitent le peuple à ne pas accepter les propositions et ordres de la Sublime Porte; mais quelques uns de mes agens ont réussi d'engager plusieurs de se conformer à vos ordres. Leur but est de diminuer le tarif sur la soie, comme anciennement; et on remarque que plusieurs qui ont signé et accepté les réglemens donnés par vos Excellences à votre divan de Beyrout, sont réunis et sont d'accord avec les mécontents, craignant de ne pas être blâmés par le reste des montagnards. Mon devoir est de prévenir vos Excellences de ces faits et de vous prier que dans le cas que quelques uns de ces mécontents se présentent chez vos Excellences pour se plaindre des taxes, de leur montrer combien vous êtes peiné qu'ils ne veulent pas être obéissans à la Sublime Porte, après tout le bien et toutes les concessions qu'elle a faits pour le Mont Liban.

Je crois qu'il serait urgent et nécessaire de faire venir la cavalerie irrégulière qui se trouve à Acre et la placer aux alentours de Beyrout et de Saïda, ainsi qu'un régiment des soldats réguliers stationnés dans les plaines de Beyrout. Par ce moyen-ci ils auront pourvu à la discorde qui règne même parmi eux dans ce moment-ci à la Montagne. Alors les affaires seront sur un meilleur pied, et on pourrait par la suite retirer ces troupes.

Je vous prie, Excellences, après de mûres réflexions sur ce point, de me faire savoir vos désirs et vos ordres sur ce sujet, qui j'espère, seront favorables.

De mon côté, je ferai tout mon possible et tout ce qui dépendra de moi pour être agréable à la Sublime Porte.

(L. S.)

EMIR BECHIR KASSIM.



(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

29 Regeb, 1257. (September 16, 1841.)

I TAKE the liberty to inform your Excellencies that the regulations which were settled in the meeting held at Beyrout before your Excellencies, and whereof all the Emirs and Sheiks have accepted, and even signed the necessary documents, have displeased the mountaineers, and they have declared that they would by no means accept them, as they had a tariff to pay. Many meetings have, in consequence, taken place between the Christians and the Druses, and we have thereupon sent orders to our friends the Chiefs, to pay no attention to these stories, and to cause the people to listen to reason. We have also sent persons in all directions, who have informed us that it is only a certain number of Sheiks who propagate discord, and excite the people not to accept the propositions and orders of the Sublime Porte; but some of my agents have succeeded in inducing several to conform to your orders. Their object is to diminish the tariff on silk, as heretofore; and it is observed that several who signed and accepted the regulations issued by your Excellencies at your divan at Beyrout, have joined and agreed with the malcontents, being fearful lest they should be blamed by the rest of the mountaineers. It is my duty to apprise your Excellencies of these circumstances, and to beg you, in case any of these malcontents should present themselves to your Excellencies in order to complain of the taxes, to show them how much you are grieved that they are unwilling to be obedient to the Sublime Porte, after all the good and all the concessions which it has granted for Mount Lebanon.

I think that it would be a matter of urgency and of necessity to summon the irregular cavalry, which is at Acre, and to station it in the neighbourhood of Beyrout and Saida, as likewise a regiment of regulars stationed in the plain of Beyrout. By these means, provision will have been made against the discord which prevails even among those who are at present in the Mountain. Thereupon matters will be upon a better footing, and eventually it might be practicable to withdraw these troops.

I request your Excellencies, after full consideration of this point, to let me know your wishes and your orders in this matter, which I hope will be favourable.

For my part, I will do my utmost, and all that shall depend on me, to be agreeable to the Sublime Porte.

(L.S.)

EMIR BESHIR KASSIM.

No. 45.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 26.)*

My Lord,

Damascus, October 19, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of my report to his Excellency the Viscount Ponsonby, together with translations of three communications from the Public Secretary of the Emir Beshir, respecting the affairs in general of Mount Lebanon, and which intimate also the contemplation of an intention on the part of the Druses to attack the Maronites and the rest of the mountaineers.

It is with regret that I have now to announce to your Lordship that the apprehensions of the Public Secretary were well founded, and that the Druses in a large body attacked the inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar at dawn of day on the 13th instant. They surrounded the town which was defended by the inhabitants and others, and the conflict lasted for five successive days. The Prince was besieged in his palace, and when hostilities ceased he had only two rounds of ammunition left.

My messengers, from whom my letters were taken by the Mountaineers, having returned without any intelligence, I regret not to have it in my power to communicate an authentic account of the details of this unfortunate collision; but I am informed that the Christians were making formidable preparations the last six days to march in considerable numbers on the 18th instant; as it would

appear they had resolved upon taking a signal vengeance for this outrage, and of not reconciling themselves with the Druses until they had either completely subdued or disarmed them. It is to be hoped, however, that they will be made to relinquish their determination, to prevent worse disasters, and although I am exerting all my efforts to that end, I am greatly afraid that the seeds of a civil war have been already sown.

The communications of the Public Secretary of the Emir are important, inasmuch as they convey the spirit and intrigues of the mountaineers; the secret though active part the Patriarch is taking in them; and the incapacity of the present Emir to encounter the difficulties of his present position.

In compliance with the strict injunctions of his Excellency the Viscount Ponsonby, to be explicit in my communications with regard to all matters connected with this country, I have ventured respectfully to suggest that the creation of fresh and unforeseen circumstances required the adoption of new measures. I have not presumed to develop completely my humble opinion as regards the bounds within which the Patriarch's authority and sphere of action ought to be reduced, and the degree of countenance that may be given to the Druses without their assuming the position of committing outrages with impunity against the rest of the mountaineers, neither have I ventured to suggest the means by which both these points could be effected safely, without sacrificing the real and solid interests of either party; but they are feasible, and would finally revert to the advantage of both.

The Druses, as a nation, are a good people, and have among them some very excellent chiefs, who, however, being themselves in easy and moderate circumstances, are averse to interfering in the intrigues and machinations of their countrymen, in order not to lose their respectability. This is extremely unfortunate, as it has given greater latitude to others to carry through their designs for purposes of a personal nature. I may be, however, permitted to state respectfully my humble opinion, notwithstanding the great difficulties that present themselves now, that, nevertheless, they are not insuperable, and great good may be still done to the country in aiding the poor Syrians to obtain peace and prosperity; but there are naturally many contingent circumstances to be taken into consideration, and many incidents of which advantage must be taken in time.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, October 11, 1841.*

I HAVE received sundry communications from the Public Secretary of the Emir Beshir, respecting the affairs of Mount Lebanon, of some importance, translations of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith for your Lordship's perusal.

They expose the intrigues of the Patriarch, and the motives of his secret opposition to the execution of the orders of the Sublime Porte relative to the amount of tribute to be paid by Lebanon.

It is evident from the inclosed communications that the Patriarch has lately adopted the resolution of favouring secretly the return of the Ex-Emir Beshir.

The underhand opposition, therefore, of the Patriarch to the execution of the present Emir's orders is a part of the plot to undermine his authority, to render him impotent, and to create confusion in order to compel the Sublime Porte to remove him and to reinstate the Ex-Prince.

I beg respectfully to call your Lordship's serious attention to the report of the Emir's Public Secretary, under date of the 10th of October. It announces the return of Sheik Naaman Djinblit to his residence, without, however, pretending to account for his absence. It insinuates, besides, that the Druses are contemplating sinister intentions against the Christians.

The Secretary intimates also, confidentially, in the same report, the incapacity of the present Emir to govern Lebanon in its present disturbed state, and under circumstances so intricate and so pregnant with events.

I concur with him in opinion, that endless intrigues and ill-judged measures, coupled with the unsubdued and refractory spirit of the Mountaineers, have created circumstances that require superior talents and penetration than the Emir possesses to control them ; but as his removal is a grave question that belongs to higher authorities to decide, it does not become me, in my humble position, to venture upon giving an opinion upon it. I may be permitted, however, respectfully to suggest, that should the propriety or not of his removal be made a matter of discussion, the Emir Emin should be appointed to succeed him instead of his father, the Ex-Emir, who is vindictive and obstinate, and likely to produce fresh difficulties and disputes by his attempting to revenge himself on the Emirs and Sheiks whom he sent into exile at the first breaking out of the insurrection, but who have since returned to their homes.

The Emir Emin is of a milder disposition, and better fitted to govern, from long experience, even during the time of his father. His conciliating manners have procured him the esteem of the Mountaineers in general.

From the brief outline I have ventured to give at times of the state of affairs in Syria, and of the spirit and feelings of the different parties, your Lordship will be pleased to observe the total and almost unaccountable change that has but recently taken place here. The Syrians are at variance among themselves, though they are leagued against their authorities. The Turks have disposed, by a singular demonstration of want of foresight and common prudence, the different parties to opposition whose confidence and respect they have lost.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

*Letter from the Public Secretary of the Emir Beshir to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Extract.)

*Deir-el-Kammar, 6 Octobre, 1841.*

HIER les deux Délégués retournèrent de chez le Patriarche, et ils ont communiqué au Grand Prince la réponse (qui est peu favorable), disant qu'au commencement de la Conférence, le Patriarche ne voulait pas se mêler, étant malade et trop dérangé pour toutes ces affaires, et après un entretien assez long, il a avoué, que d'après son opinion il ne croyait pas qu'on pourrait faire payer plus de 4 Mals, ou moins de la moitié des Tributs qu'on payait anciennement (outre le Ferdé) ; que d'après le calcul fait ici, y compris toutes les autres petites rentes, le tout n'arrivait pas à 2000 Bourses, desquelles on payerait au Gouvernement les 1200 Bourses, et le reste serait pour les dépenses de l'administration, à condition aussi que le Prince ferait mention dans ses ordres qu'il n'exigerait plus de cette somme de la population ; et que le Patriarche croit qu'on ne pourrait pas retirer de plus, et que pour le déficit il peut retirer les revenus des villages nommés Beglik (appartenant à la Couronne) qui furent donnés à divers Princes et Sheiks pour récompense ; et qu'il pourrait faire aussi payer le Tribut sur les terrains des Princes, Sheiks, et d'autres qui leur ont été bonifiés dans le tems de l'Ex-Emir. Autrement, il n'aurait qu'à s'arranger avec les 4 Mals y compris d'autres petits droits. En conclusion, il persiste que la population n'était nullement disposée à payer de plus.

Après cette réponse, le Grand Prince a distribué ses ordres en calculant sur les 4 Mals, sans pourtant faire mention qu'on ne percevra pas d'autre somme.

Son Excellence Selim Pacha est arrivé ici depuis hier, avec les deux autres Pachas. Le Grand Prince lui a communiqué l'état des affaires en détail sans faire mention de qui provient ces obstacles. Le Sheik Naaman Djinblat est devenu hypocondriaque, et il s'est rendu aux alentours de Beyrout, sans même parler des affaires de la Montagne. Dans quelques jours d'ici nous saurons l'esprit de la population au sujet du paiement des 4 Mals, mais je crains d'une résistance, comme il n'a pas été fait mention dans les ordres, qu'on ne payera pas d'autre argent.

L'Emir Haidar est dégoûté de la manière avec laquelle le Patriarche agit, ainsi que bien d'autres, mais il n'ose rien dire.

Le Conseil n'est pas encore bien établi, à cause de l'absence de quelques membres Druses ; et le Sheik Naaman n'a pas été ponctuel à sa promesse, s'occupant du départ de son frère pour l'Angleterre. Il a pris une forte charge sur lui, de façon qu'il vient de perdre la tête tout à fait. Le Prince souffre beaucoup

de la conduite de tous, et il craint que les Montagnards ne s'opposent au paiement, et les troupes du Gouvernement sont en trop petit nombre pour les obliger. Après avoir donné ses ordres, ceci aurait été le dernier pas qu'il pourrait prendre. Dans le cas donc, qu'ils se refusent au paiement, il fera une triste figure auprès la Sublime Porte sans qu'il puisse faire connaître la vérité, mais il a été rassuré par votre lettre, dans laquelle vous me dites d'avoir représenté à la Sublime Porte l'état des affaires pour sa justification. Les troupes du Prince sont de la Montagne même; il ne pourra pas en faire usage pour contraindre les Montagnards, à moins que le Gouvernement Local ne mette à sa disposition des soldats; et si les autorités s'y refusent, il faudra bien céder à leurs injustes prétentions. Pourtant le Prince se recommande entièrement à votre bonté, et il a suivi à la lettre vos conseils à l'égard de la perception des Tributs, et vraiment votre opinion est venue à l'appui de la sienne.

Aujourd'hui, le Prince a envoyé un Emir chez le Patriarche pour lui parler clairement, mais moi je vois que le Patriarche ne changera pas sa conduite; et le fait est qu'il ne veut pas fortifier la position du Grand Prince, pour quelques fins connus à lui, sous prétexte de ne pas aggraver les droits des pauvres Libanites. Le Prince a travaillé beaucoup d'étendre son influence sur les Chefs. Il a bien réussi avec les Princes du Meten, mais sans utilité, puisque l'influence de l'autre parti, c'est à dire du Patriarche, est plus grande, chez les Chrétiens par obéissance, et chez les Druses par peur. Pourtant il est inutile de travailler sans avoir de la force avec de pareils gens.

(Translation.)

*Deir-el-Kammar, October 6, 1841.*

YESTERDAY the two delegates returned from the Patriarch, and communicated to the Grand Prince the answer, (which is little favourable,) saying that at the commencement of the conference the Patriarch was unwilling to have anything to do with the matter, being unwell, and too much out of order for all these affairs; and after considerable discussion, he declared that in his opinion he did not think it possible to cause more than four Mals to be paid, or less than half the tributes formerly paid (besides the Ferdé); that according to the calculation made here, including all the other small revenues, the whole did not amount to 2,000 purses, from which 1,200 purses would be paid to the Government, and the rest would be for the expenses of the administration, on condition, likewise, that the Prince should mention in his orders that he would not require more than this sum from the people; and that the Patriarch thinks that it would not be possible to draw more; and that as for the deficit he can draw the revenues of the villages called Beglik (belonging to the Crown), which were given as rewards to different Princes and Sheiks; and that he might also cause the tribute to be paid on the lands of the Princes, Sheiks; and others, which were conferred upon them during the time of the ex-Emir; otherwise, he had nothing for it but to content himself with the four Mals, including the small duties. Finally, he persists that the people were nowise disposed to pay more.

After this answer the Great Prince issued his orders, reckoning on the four Mals, without, however, stating that no other sum will be levied.

His Excellency Selim Pasha arrived here yesterday, with the two other Pashas. The Great Prince communicated to him at length the state of affairs, without mentioning from whence the obstacles arose. Sheik Naaman Djinblat has become hypochondriacal, and has betaken himself to the neighbourhood of Beyrout, without even speaking of the affairs of the Mountain. Some days hence we shall learn the disposition of the people on the subject of the payment of the four Mals, but I apprehend resistance, as it has not been mentioned in the orders that they shall not pay any other money.

The Emir Haidar is disgusted with the manner in which the Patriarch acts, as well as many other persons, but he dares say nothing.

The Council is not as yet fully established, in consequence of the absence of some of the Druse members; and Sheik Naaman has not been punctual to his promise, being engaged with the departure of his brother for England. He has taken a heavy burthen upon himself, so that he has altogether lost his head. The Prince suffers much from the conduct of all parties, and he fears lest the mountaineers should oppose the payment, and the troops of the Government are

in too small a number to force them to pay. After having issued his orders, this would have been the last step which he could take. In case then that they refuse payment, he will cut a poor figure with the Sublime Porte, without having the means of explaining the truth; but he has been reassured by your letter, in which you tell me that you have represented the state of affairs to the Sublime Porte for his justification. The troops of the Prince are from the Mountain itself; he will not be able to employ them to constrain the mountaineers, unless the local government places soldiers at his disposal; and if the authorities refuse to do so, he must give way to their unjust pretensions. However, the Prince recommends himself altogether to your goodness, and he has implicitly followed your advice with regard to the collection of the tributes, and in truth your opinion coincided with his own.

To-day the Prince has sent an Emir to the Patriarch to speak plainly to him, but I myself see that the Patriarch will not alter his conduct; and the fact is, that he does not wish to strengthen the position of the Great Prince, for certain purposes known to himself, under the pretence of not increasing the taxes of the poor Lebanites. The Prince has laboured much to extend his influence over the chiefs. He has been very successful with the Princes of the Meten, but without any benefit; since the influence of the other party, that is to say, of the Patriarch, is greater, with the Christians from obedience, and with the Druses from fear. However, it is useless labouring with such people without having force.

Inclosure 3 in No. 45.

*Letter from the Public Secretary of the Emir Beshir to Mr. Consul Wood.*

*Deir-el-Kammar, 10 Octobre, 1841.*

LE Sheik Naaman Djinblat est retourné hier au Moktara, et on ne connaît pas le résultat de son voyage. Je crois que le Patriarche oppose des obstacles à la perception des tributs, puisqu'il insiste encore qu'on ne paye pas plus de 4 Mals, comme je vous ai déjà écrit. Aujourd'hui un ami du Grand Prince lui a dit que le Patriarche fait toutes ces difficultés pour favoriser le retour de l'Ex-Prince, et que, par conséquent, il ne désire pas voir exécuter les ordres donnés en dernier lieu à Beyrout.

Une lettre de l'Emir Haidar de Solima, en date d'hier, écrite au Grand Prince, fait mention que dans le district de Meten on ne veut pas payer plus de leur portion sur la somme de 1200 bourses, et ne veulent nullement reconnaître les dépenses de l'administration. Mais après avoir distribué les ordres relativement au paiement, et ayant considéré l'opposition des Chrétiens, je me suis entretenu avec divers chefs Druses; un de ceux-ci fut le frère d'Emir Emin Raslan; je lui ai promis des faveurs de la part du Grand Prince, afin qu'il aille auprès des Sheiks Djinblat les persuader, ainsi que les autres Druses, pour agir en conformité des ordres du Grand Prince. A son retour aujourd'hui il nous a communiqué qu'ils ont consenti aux ordres, et que tous les Sheiks Druses viendront demain ensemble: on croit ici qu'ils ont l'intention de demander tous leurs privilèges, et d'agir même avec de la force, pour punir les Chrétiens qui se trouvent dans leurs districts et sous leur juridiction, s'ils refusent à payer les taxes, mais on ne connaît pas pour sûr leurs intentions; j'espère par la prochaine occasion vous écrire le résultat. On dit que dans la Province de Djinblat on a distribué le "Miri," que nous n'avons pas encore reçu.

L'opinion est, que le Patriarche joue un rôle. Je laisse à vous, Monsieur, à juger de ce fait après que vous aurez reçu des nouvelles de Constantinople. Enfin, nous sommes dans une fort mauvaise position, jusqu'à ce que nous puissions réussir à avoir le total du tribut, duquel vous serez avisé.

J'ajouterai aussi, confidentiellement, que le Grand Prince n'est pas capable à résister à toutes ces intrigues. Il est vraiment un très-brave homme, lorsque les affaires sont en calme, mais dans les circonstances actuelles il ne sait pas s'y prendre, malgré les bons conseils qu'on lui donne, et de plus, l'argent et l'envie de le dépenser lui manquent. La fureur qu'il met dans sa conversation, et le peu d'assistance qu'il rencontre de la part des chefs, lui cause beaucoup de tort. Si enfin nous ne réussissons pas avec les Druses, ou si le Patriarche ne l'aide pas, je ne sais pas comment nous finirons.

Je vous prie, Monsieur, d'appuyer l'affaire de l'Emir Saïd-el-Deen de Hasbeya, et dont le Grand Prince confirme aussi tout ce que je vous en avais écrit à son égard. Shibli-el-Arian a emporté toutes les munitions qui se trouvaient auprès de l'Emir Saïd-el-Deen dans sa maison, qu'il a distribué en grande portion aux Druses, et le reste il l'a gardé dans la maison du Cadi Druse. Il faut ajouter, que les Chrétiens sont très excités par suite de l'affaire de ce pauvre Prince, mais je les ai tranquilisés pour le moment en les promettant qu'on réussira à procurer sa liberté, et que peut-être il sera aussi confirmé ; autrement, si les Chrétiens venaient de savoir que l'on fortifie les Druses, beaucoup de mécontentement se fera voir parmi eux.

(Translation.)

*Deir-el-Kammar, October 10, 1841.*

THE Sheik Naaman Djinblat returned yesterday to Moktara, and the result of his journey is not known. I think that the Patriarch opposes obstacles to the collection of the tributes, because he still insists that not more than four Mals shall be paid, as I have already written to you. A friend of the Great Prince told him to-day, that the Patriarch makes all these difficulties, in order to favour the return of the Ex-Prince, and that consequently, he is not desirous of seeing the orders recently given at Beyrout, carried into execution.

A letter from the Emir Haidar of Solima, dated yesterday, written to the Great Prince, mentions, that in the district of Meten, they do not choose to pay more than their share of the 1200 purses, and will in nowise admit the expenses of the administration. But after having issued the orders respecting the payment, and having considered the opposition of the Christians, I entered into communication with various Druse Chiefs; one of these was the brother of Emir Emin Raslan; I promised him favours on the part of the Great Prince, in order that he might go to the Sheiks Djinblat to persuade them, as well as the other Druses, to act in conformity with the orders of the Great Prince. On his return to-day, he communicated to me that they had consented to the orders, and that all the Druse Sheiks will come to-morrow together. It is thought here that they have the intention of demanding all their privileges, and even to act with force, in order to punish the Christians who are in their districts and under their jurisdiction, if they refuse to pay the taxes; but their intentions are not known for certainty; I hope by the next opportunity to write you the result. It is said that in the province of Djinblat they have distributed the "Miri," which we have not yet received.

The opinion is, that the Patriarch is playing a part. I leave it to you, Sir, to judge of this fact, after you shall have received news from Constantinople. At all events, we are in a very bad position, until such time as we may succeed in obtaining the whole of the tribute, of which you shall be informed.

I will also add, confidentially, that the Great Prince is not capable of resisting all these intrigues. He is in truth a very good man when things are quiet; but in existing circumstances he does not know how to deal with them, notwithstanding the good advice given to him; and, moreover, he wants money, and inclination to spend it. The violent language which he makes use of, and the little assistance which he receives from the Chiefs, do him much injury. If we do not at length succeed with the Druses, or if the Patriarch does not assist him, I know not how we shall end.

I request you, Sir, to support the matter of the Emir Said-el-Deen, of Hasbeya, and with regard to which the Great Prince likewise confirms all that I had written to you thereupon. Shibli-el-Arian carried off all the ammunition which was in the house of the Emir Said-el-Deen, which he has distributed in great part among the Druses, and he keeps the remainder in the house of the Druse Cadi. I must add, that the Christians are much excited in consequence of the affair of this poor Prince; but I have quieted them for the time, by promising them that we shall succeed in setting him at liberty, and that perhaps he will also be confirmed; otherwise if the Christians should learn that the Druses are strengthened, much discontent will be displayed among them.

No. 46.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 24, 1841.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 18th of September, reporting the measures which you adopted to put a stop to an affray which took place between the Druses and the Christians on the 14th of that month, at Deir-el-Kammar; and to prevent the recurrence of such disastrous contests between the two sects: and I have to state to you in reply, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your conduct on that occasion.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

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No. 47.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 26, 1841.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 1st of October, under flying seal, stating the inconvenience which would result from the late Emir Beshir being allowed to return to Syria.

Her Majesty's Government would certainly much regret that the Porte should consent to his doing so; and I have instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople earnestly to recommend the Turkish Government not to suffer itself to be induced by any promises on the part of the late Emir, or by any other considerations, to admit of his return to Syria on any terms whatever.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

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No. 48.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, November 26, 1841.*

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with extreme concern by a despatch from Mr. Consul Wood, dated the 19th of October, received this day through Constantinople, that subsequently to the date of your despatch of the 18th of September, fresh conflicts have taken place in the neighbourhood of Deir-el-Kammar, between the Druses and the Christians of Mount Lebanon.

Her Majesty's Government regret to perceive in Mr. Wood's report, that there is strong reason to suppose that Sheik Naaman has been very active in the late disturbances. If that is really the case, I have to instruct you to express to the Sheik, in the strongest terms, the extreme disappointment felt by Her Majesty's Government at such an instance of his disregard of the assurances which he has so repeatedly given to you of his desire to comply with the wishes of the British Government. The Sheik must be well aware that the first wish of the British Government is that the different sects inhabiting the Lebanon should live in peace with each other; and he may be assured that the interest which Her Majesty's Government may feel, or may be disposed to exert, in favour of any particular individual or party, will be in strict proportion to the disposition manifested by them to maintain tranquillity in the country, and to pay obedience to the commands of the Sultan.

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*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, October 12, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the leading Christians and Druses of Deir-el-Kammar, Shoof, Meten, and other parts, met on the 20th ultimo at Semkenia, a village between Deir-el-Kammar and Mooktara, and made peace, as they term it, a ceremony, which in this country consists in the opposing parties swearing friendship and peace, and then kissing one another. Notwithstanding this circumstance, occurrences have taken place which do not hold out favourable augury for future tranquillity. Three or four Christians going from Deir-el-Kammar to Damascus have been stopped and plundered of their property; the same took place with respect to a Christian in the village of Bakalein; on the other hand the Christians of Djenin killed three Druses who had been sent by Sheik Naaman to collect his rents in that district. No sort of inquiry was instituted either by the Turkish authorities, or the Emir Beshir, into these acts, or into the collision of Bakalein, in which about twenty-six persons were lost, and thirty, at least, wounded. I gave the Seraskier a full account of the whole affair the day of my arrival at Beyrout, and represented to him respectfully, and strongly, the necessity of taking some measures to prevent a recurrence of what had taken place, for that I conceived from the animosity which existed between the parties, and the manner in which the inhabitants of the surrounding villages and districts had hurried armed and prepared to the scene of strife, that the collision at Bakalein would have become a civil war, if it had not been stopped, and that a repetition of such a disorder, which might be expected in the present state of feelings and of affairs, would certainly produce general hostilities between both parties. His Excellency seemed anything but pained by the account which I gave him; he went shortly afterwards to Deir-el-Kammar, but instead of inquiring into so grave a breach of the peace, and disregard of authority, or strengthening the hands of the Emir Beshir to prevent a recurrence of them, he amused himself for the few hours he passed there, in visiting the palace of Ibtedeen, and shooting at an egg out of his window, with a rifle. The revengeful feelings of the Druses had been much excited by the loss of so many of their countrymen at Bakalein, still more so, because no fewer than four Sheiks, or leaders of the house of Amad, fell on that day, as well as, it is said, some of their women, who had gone out to endeavour to make peace; and indeed after attentively considering the different statements respecting the affray at Bakalein, I consider that the Christians were the aggressors.

In the Lebanon, and Syria in general, there are more different sects than in any other part of the world of the same extent of surface; in this space there are between fifty and sixty thousand men capable of bearing arms, and having in their hands good muskets, besides a countless number of small and side arms, worn by persons of all ranks, and on all occasions. These men thus armed are nearly barbarians, and are animated, as they differ in their belief, by the most intense dislike towards each other, a feeling which, instead of being removed or softened, has been engendered and fostered by the teachers of those beliefs; thus amongst the Maronites, it is the Patriarch, who has more than once made declarations, that if the Druses endeavour to make good their claims to the disputed property in the Bekaa, or to be governed by a prince of their own, (and to effect this they have already made two attempts,) that his Eminence and his clergy will head the Maronites, march against, and exterminate them. With these sentiments of his Eminence the Druses are unfortunately acquainted, and the animosity which they, on their part, entertain towards the Maronites, and their spiritual head, did not require this fresh stimulus.

If any country ever required the steady and strict government of honest and talented men, it is Syria; but, unfortunately for her, she may be said to be almost without a government. The Turkish authorities, who attempt to rule her, have no one qualification for governing even a peaceably-disposed and well-organized country; they are corrupt; for if there are one or two instances where Pashas do not accept bribes, their servants do so, and the bad effects are the same. The Governor of Jerusalem, whom the Turks found there on occupying that town after the expulsion of Ibrahim Pasha, was removed on account of his devotion to

Mehemet Ali. To effect his return to office, he carried into execution a very common Arab intrigue. He promoted dissensions to prove the incapacity of his successor for office, and by money managed to create a rising and feud between some of the Arab tribes in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, in which many persons were killed. The affair was inquired into. There were two hundred witnesses to prove the case against the Governor, and he was sent for trial to Damascus. On his arrival there he gave a large bribe to Nejib Pasha, and escaped trial, came to Beyrout, where he entered into treaty with the Defterdar for the vacant governorship of Gaza, the Syrian frontier town, from which post I believe that my representations to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had caused, only a short time before, the removal of Mahomed Abdul, notoriously a partisan of Mehemet Ali. This latter functionary, as is detailed in my dispatch of the 4th May, was to have been sent to Constantinople, on strong suspicion of having hired persons to set fire to the powder magazines at St. Jean d'Acre, after the surrender of that fortress; but instead of being so dealt with, he gave a bribe of 50,000 piastres to Nejib Pasha, and became Governor of Gaza. The consequences of such an appointment were soon apparent: the whole of that district was in a short time the scene of disorder and revolt. In the meantime the late Governor of Jerusalem, Mohamed Abdul Hadi, by the gift of a large sum of money, procured from the Turkish authorities the promise of the vacant post of Governor of Gaza, and the Ex-Governor, Mahmoud Abdul, commenced a treaty with the authorities here for the post of Defterdar of that province. This instance of the extensive traffic in posts of confidence and responsibility, will give your Lordship an idea of the deep-rooted corruption which prevails in this country, and, along with the collateral causes which I detail, will account for the failures of the good results which were anticipated from the restoration of Syria to the direct government of the Sultan.

The misconduct of the Turkish authorities who have been sent to this country, their want of education, of talent, their entire ignorance as to public opinion, would alone render them unfit, uncontrolled, to govern a country like Syria.

The ordinances of the late and of the present Sultan are entirely at variance with the decrees of the Koran and the old law; the former declaring that all subjects of the Sublime Porte are entitled to equal rights; whereas the Koran restricts the enjoyment of them to Mahometans. The consequence of such a contradiction is, that the greatest confusion has arisen in all matters of law; and it is only fair to state this in excuse of the Turkish authorities, for they do not, nor can they, know how to deal at all times with the cases in which the old differs entirely from the new law; and the consequence is, that the decisions of the Pashas, guided by the Muftis, or expounders of the law, and even of the courts of law, are reversed by orders from the Divan at Constantinople, which strives to give its decisions in accordance with public opinion in Europe, as well as with that in Turkey,—a hopeless effort. The attempt at reform in Turkey has created a dissension amongst Turks which has produced results dangerous to their empire and to their influence.

The bigotry (it is called fanaticism, but still it is their belief) of the majority, the most influential class of the Turkish nation, in combination with other causes, will never allow her internal administration, her army and navy, to undergo the extensive change which is necessary for their amelioration, or their efficiency; but still the well-meant dispositions and policy of the late and of the present Sultan, and of their adherents, the liberal Turks, as they are called, have been sufficiently influential to nullify the despotism and rigour of the ancient systems, in which the real power of the Turks consisted. It is a curious fact, that only a little more than half a year after the reading and proclamation of the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané in this country, there has been a general reaction in favour of the Koran, and of the exclusive privileges of the Mahometans over Christians, in diametrical opposition to the doctrines of equality of all before the law, which is the essence of the Hatti-Sheriff. Rechid Pasha, Governor of Acre, complained to me, that he could exercise no authority over the numerous workmen who were employed in the repairs of the fortress; that according to the modern clauses he could not cause even a refractory one to be struck. The Emir Beshir made the same complaint. The Pasha who formerly could by his mere word cause persons to be decapitated without any trial, now hesitates in ordering a person of the lowest class to be bastinadoed. Police force is unknown in Syria, and the aid of the military to the civil power, which scarcely exists, is a thing unheard of; thus disorders of every sort occur in the provinces; indivi-

duals and communities endeavouring to recover disputed property by force of arms. Between Naplous and Acre a series of engagements have taken place between the Governor of that town, and an Arab Chief, Booktar; in the last of them three nephews of the Governor and sixty of his men were killed, and he lost besides his horses and property; Booktar shortly afterwards was in Acre, and made no attempt to conceal himself there. Cases of murder and assault, occurring continually in the country, on the public roads, and in the towns, are not even investigated, and derision is excited, when a legal application to the Pasha, the Mutsellim, or the Kadi is suggested in this country to an injured man, for even if he give a bribe for a decision favourable to him, he runs the risk of being outbid by his opponent.

There is still another circumstance which renders the Government in this country powerless, and precludes hope of a better state of things; the treasury is destitute. Arrears of pay to the troops were due for nine months, when the Austrian steamer having brought a sum of money to indemnify the sufferers in the late war, the Defterdar seized it, and paid it to the troops, the irregular portion of which, the Bozibouks, were in a state of mutiny, and had threatened to shoot the Turkish officer who was sent to count their numbers. Selim Bey, a colonel on the staff, and other Turkish officers, were obliged to sell their horses, watches, and rings, not having received any pay since they had been in Syria, and on one occasion a delay of two or three days took place in sending a messenger, a horseman, to St. Jean d'Acre, because neither the Seraskier, or Musteshar had money to pay his expenses. The whole of the Quarantine establishment, till a short time ago, had been without pay, and on their making remonstrances, the chief, and greater part of them were dismissed. This is a state of bankruptcy, but even the funds which might remedy in a measure the evil, are unavailable for State purposes, from the dishonesty of the persons in administration of the customs.

The Turkish army officered as it is, is not efficient; it is without a commissariat, or medical staff, and since the cessation of hostilities in February last, the regiments lying in good quarters have been considerably weakened by deaths, the greater part of which have been caused by an almost total absence of medical attendants, and of the commonest medicines; the troops have been subsisting since their arrival in this country, on the stores fortunately left by Ibrahim Pasha. It is needless to observe, that its inefficiency is increased by the absence of funds which are required for its commonest wants and duties.

I have had the honour to state to your Lordship that the Turkish Government in this country have no moral power; the state of their army and of their finances deprive them of a physical one, in a country where passion prevails over reason, and where religion and public opinion, such as it is, appear rather to develop than to check animosities and dissensions.

In such a state of affairs public tranquillity must be very much a matter of chance.

#### No. 50.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, October 20, 1841*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that accounts arrived here on the morning of the 14th instant, that a collision had taken place on the previous day between the Christians and Druses, at Deir-el-Kammar. At one o'clock, the same day, Assistant-Surgeon Robertson, who had been attending the persons wounded on the 14th of September, at Bakalein, arrived here with the intelligence that the Druses of Deir-el-Kammar and the surrounding districts, under the two joint Druse governors of that town, Nasif Bey and Sheik Hamoud, had attacked on the previous day the Emir Beshir and the Christian inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar. I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of Mr. Robertson's report to me on the subject.

It appears that the Emir Beshir, partly from want of funds, and partly because he was thwarted in his attempt to recruit men at Deir-el-Kammar, by the efforts of the joint governors, Nasif Bey and Sheik Hamoud, for the reasons that are

given in Sheik Yousuff's statement, in Inclosure No. 2 of this despatch, had not been able to organize the force which I mentioned in my despatch of the 23rd of September. His Highness's force, on the day of the attack, only consisted of seventy men, which were barely sufficient to defend the palace, but not to inspire awe amongst the wild people with whom he had to deal, much less to enable him to collect the Miri. Amongst his other faults, the Emir Beshir is fond of money, and he has always keenly felt the injustice of not only not receiving any salary, either for himself or his officers, but, on the contrary, of paying many public expenses out of his own private fortune, which must be tolerably good. On his arrival, therefore, at Deir-el-Kammar, he made several attempts to collect the Miri, the amount of which was fixed on by the meeting at Beyrout, as stated in my despatch of the 6th of September, and failed; a circumstance which, in combination with his unsuccessful endeavours to raise men, appears to have irritated his Highness. The Druses, as I had the honour to state in my despatch of the 3rd of May, have never willingly acknowledged the direct authority of a Maronite prince, or, in other words, of one whose sect and religion render him the natural enemy of their race, a fact allowed by both Maronites and Druses; and, as appears from that despatch, and also from that of the 10th of August, projects had been formed, in the first instance by Druses, and in the latter by Christians as well as Druses, to take his Highness's life. Mr. Robertson states, that the reception of his Highness at Deir-el-Kammar was favourable. The whole population, Druses and Christians, went out to meet him, with every external appearance of satisfaction; but this popularity was but short-lived. He announced his intention of collecting the miri, an unpopular tax; and so far from conciliating the good will of the Druse chiefs, Nasif Bey and Sheik Hamoud, who are all-powerful with their retainers, and who, according to the ancient law of the Djebel Druse, or the Lebanon, are the feudal superiors of the Christians, who are their rayahs, his Highness appears to have endeavoured to make little of, if not altogether to do away with, the Suzerain power which the Druse chiefs exercise over their vassals, and which is fully as great as that which the Highland chieftains exercised formerly over their clans. This would have been a hazardous policy for even a younger and cleverer man than his Highness; but in combination with his repeated attempts to collect the Miri, a tax which no part of the Lebanon had yet paid, it became rashness, especially when he had not been able to collect a force sufficient to assert his authority, or protect his person beyond the door of his palace, which appears from his Highness's letter to Mr. Wood, Inclosure No. 3. The great irritation caused by the fatal affray between the Druses and Christians at Bakalein, and the other occurrences which have been detailed in my several despatches, should have induced his Highness to take into consideration the advice which I ventured to give him, as I had the honour to state in my despatch of the 23d of September, and which, indeed, he promised to do. But I have so often had the honour to represent the unfitness of his Highness for his position, and first in my despatch of the 3rd of May, that it will not cause surprise to your Lordship when I state, that acting as his Highness did at Deir-el-Kammar, the Druses had a strong aversion to him, and that both they and the Christians entertained feelings towards him the reverse of respect, a circumstance much to be regretted, for his Highness is brave, and means, I believe, well.

The Christians of Deir-el-Kammar are wealthy and flourishing; several of them are, besides, in possession of houses and land, which were formerly the property of the Druses, but which were taken from them by the Ex-Emir Beshir. This is the case with the Abuneked family, of which the Governors of Deir-el-Kammar, Nasif Bey, and Sheik Hamoud, are the heads. In proportion as the Christians have risen in wealth and station, and have been removed from the position of serfs to the Abunekeds, to that of equality with them, the pride of the former, and the jealousy and dislike of the latter, have been respectively on the increase. I observed, in the communications which I had with the Christians and Druses, after the affair at Bakalein, that the former, particularly the superior of the Convent, spoke of the Druses, especially of their religion, with a contempt and aversion which were not expressed by the Druses with respect to the Christians. The wealthy Greek Catholics, or schismatics from the Greek Orthodox, or Antioch Church, who are the richest persons in Deir-el-Kammar, have lent large sums of money to Nasif Bey, an expensive man, and embarrassed in his circumstances; but this proud and bad person does not cease to remember that Ibrahim Meshaka, the man who has thus assisted him, was the serf of his family, and that it was the

possession of his property which has placed him in the position to be compelled to ask, and has enabled the other to lend him money, for which, as usual in this country, they ask high interest, generally from twenty to forty per cent. His demands for money have been so frequent, that Meshaka was at last obliged to decline making him any further advances; and it is not therefore surprising that the second house which Nasif Bey burnt in the attack on Deir-el-Kammar was that of Meshaka, the man who had lent him money, and who thought that he was his greatest friend.

The indiscreet conduct of the Patriarch, in ordering Nasif Bey to eject the American Missionaries, who had established schools for the education of the Druses, had added to the dislike which that people already felt towards him, and his co-religionists.

His Eminence, about a month since, took another step which increased the irritation already subsisting between the Druses and himself. He sent round a circular, called the Hedgi, to the Christians of the Lebanon, in which he ordered the inhabitants of every village to write and sign a bond, by which they engaged themselves to appoint two men, who were to act as agents of each town or village, and in whom was to be vested the power formerly enjoyed by the Sheiks, as feudal superiors. This scheme, if carried into effect, would have neutralized the hereditary influence of the Druses, who already, as I had the honour to state in my despatch of the 3rd of May, were indisposed towards the Emir Beshir, by the projected formation of a divan or representative assembly.

I have had the honour to state above, circumstances which have led in part to the cruel and premeditated attack on Deir-el-Kammar. There are persons who attribute it also to the return of the Ex-Emir Beshir to Constantinople, and who conceive that the Druses, persuaded as are the generality of inhabitants in this country, that his move to Constantinople is a certain indication of his Highness's reassumption of power in Syria, were determined to strengthen their position by the possession of their ancient country, and of Deir-el-Kammar, before the return of a Prince who had so effectually subdued them. Those who think thus are supported in their opinion by the fact, that the first houses burnt by the Druses were those of Butros Karamy, Secretary to the Ex-Emir Beshir, and of his leading partisans.

The attack on Deir-el-Kammar was evidently the effect of a well-planned conspiracy by the chiefs of the Druses; it was made simultaneously from different quarters, and as soon as it was made, all the passes by which succour could have been sent to the town, were occupied and guarded. For two or three days before, small bodies of Druses had arrived in the suburbs, and dispersed themselves amongst the houses. Nasif Bey, who led the attack from the west, and Hootoor Bey that from the east, were two of four Druses who had been residing for a length of time in Egypt, under Mehemet Ali. These two Sheiks, and Naaman and Saïd Djinblat, were courted by Mehemet Ali during their residence in Egypt, and received, on their departure for Syria, the decoration and rank of Bey; and it has been generally reported, that they are in correspondence with his Highness, and that they are directed to create disorder and agitation in the Lebanon, in order to carry out his views. No act of theirs could possibly have forwarded this policy better than the attack of Deir-el-Kammar. Nasif Bey, I heard yesterday, stated at a dinner, that Mehemet Ali had not his equal in the world; and on a person asking him whether, such being his opinion, he would wish him to return, he replied, "Yes, certainly." If the late proceedings of the four Druse Beys have been in accordance with instructions from Mehemet Ali, he will probably have been profuse in his promises to them; and those to whom he thinks it worth while to make that description of promise, know that he is too good a politician not to fulfil them when he has the means of doing so; these Druses feel assured, that no circumstance will afford him those means, or enable Mehemet Ali to fulfil his promises to them so speedily as his return to this country, either as an invader, or as a pacificator; and that event is rendered almost certain, according to their views, by the disorders which they have created, and the inability of the Turkish Government to check them. A promise to Sheik Naaman of the power which was held by his forefathers, over his people the Druses, and the restoration to Nasif Bey, a ruined man, but a good soldier, and generalissimo of the Druses, of the property which was once his family's, but which is now held by Christians, would probably have secured the services of men, who never have, and never will acknowledge voluntarily, the



rule of a Maronite Prince. I do not think that the Druses at large would see willingly the return of Mehemet Ali to this country, nor do they contemplate probably such an event, but the orders of their Sheiks, which to them is law, their dislike to the Emir Beshir, and to the taxation, the blood of their countrymen which was spilt at Bakalein, and, above all, their wish to place their country on its original footing, and make it Djebel-el-Druse again, expelling the Maronites and Greek Catholics, were quite sufficient motives of action for the various Sheiks and people generally. Mehemet Ali has of late frequently observed, that the Great Powers would regret that they had expelled him from Syria, and that his return to it would be necessary; he has only changed his policy, and will attempt to subdue it by intrigue, and the dissensions of Syrians amongst themselves,—a safer and cheaper mode of proceeding than that of keeping it in subjection by a large army, a great part of which were Syrians, and forced most unwillingly into his service, and who went over to his enemies on his first reverse. The haste with which his Highness has sent back the Syrians, in number about 6,800, is remarkable, and the liberality which he has displayed in sending even more than he was required to do, is still more so. His mode of proceeding in this respect is attributed to his wish to develop the policy which I have just described. He knew that all of these Syrians were Mahometans, Mutualis, Druses, and Anzaris, that, after the life which they had led in his army, they would, as individuals, in case of tumult or disorder, more probably take part in, than repress them. His Highness knew that in the present state of Syria, or rather the state to which the execution of his plan was intended to bring her, the presence of 5,000 or 6,000 well-trained soldiers,—his best regiments consisted of Syrians,—would materially further his views, and so it has happened, for I myself, at the attack on Deir-el-Kammar, on the 16th instant, saw several of the Syrian soldiers among the Druses, who were acting as officers. One of them had still on his Egyptian dress, and the Druses told our party that there were many Mutualis, also just returned from Egypt, along with them. All of them, on account of their military knowledge, had been intrusted by the Druses with the posts of officers.

There is still another cause, and a powerful one, which has certainly contributed to bring about the present state of affairs in the Lebanon, and that is the short-sighted policy which has, I regret to say, induced the Turkish authorities in Syria to foment secretly, rather than to check, the mutual animosities of opposing parties. United against them on the subject of taxation, or any other matter, the Turks could retain no authority over the inhabitants of the Mountain, or obtain the taxes from them; by creating dissension between them, and availing themselves of one party against the other, they hope to be able to do so. In confirmation of this, I have the honour to inclose a statement from Major Churchill, which elucidates the views of Nejib Pasha on the subject. In my despatch of the 24th of July, I had the honour to state that the Turkish authorities had transmitted by two tatars the petition of the Druses to the Sublime Porte to be governed by a Mahometan prince, Emir Effendi of Hasbeya, who promised, in the event of their request being granted, to pay the taxes. This policy was in accordance with the twofold object of Nejib Pasha to revive the Mahometan and divide the Mountain interest.

Mr. Moore states, that when he communicated to the Seraskier the intelligence of the conspiracy to assassinate the Emir Beshir, mentioned in my despatch of the 10th of August, he is convinced, from the manner of his Excellency, that he was aware of it, and the Seraskier remarked that the Emir Beshir had not yet brought to light the person who had attempted to murder the Turkish officer. When I announced to the same person the fatal conflict at Bakalein, I should certainly say that the manner of his Excellency was that of a person who received agreeable rather than disagreeable news; and although I pointed out to him that civil war might result from the event in question, he, as Pasha of Sidon, which includes the Lebanon, and Commander-in-chief of the Turkish force, took no one step from that time, up to the attack on Deir-el-Kammar, a period of a month, to prevent further evil.

The Druses of the Lebanon have lately been in constant communication with his Excellency, and Mr. Misk states positively that on three occasions ammunition was sent from Damascus to the Lebanon. This proceeding would answer the twofold purpose of his Excellency; to divide, and thus rule, the two strong parties in the Mountain, and to oppress the Christians. His Excellency also, on some pre-

text, has arrested the Governor and Prince of Hasbeya, a Mahometan, but who is friendly to the Christians, and who proved himself to be so by repressing the Druses when disturbances had taken place between them and the Christians at Hasbeya, about three months ago. He replaced his Highness in the command of the district of Hasbeya by Shibli-el-Arian, a Druse leader of irregular cavalry, a most unprincipled person, and whose first act was to give four casks of powder to the Druse inhabitants of Hasbeya, at the Tuesday market, and to deposit the remainder with Sheik Youssuff Kais, a Druse.

In conclusion, I think it to be my duty to draw again your Lordship's attention, most respectfully, to the organic and permanent cause of disorder and revolt in this country, which is, that the whole of its inflammable and uncivilized inhabitants are completely armed.

I beg to observe with great respect that Nejib Pasha may possibly not be in connexion with Mehemet Ali, but that, nevertheless, both his Highness' and the Pasha's policy will produce the same results in this country, namely, misery, and the ultimate subversion of the Sultan's authority.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

*Assistant-Surgeon Robertson to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Beyrout, October 14, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you that yesterday forenoon, whilst engaged in paying my visits to the sick and wounded at Deir-el-Kammar, I learnt from various parties on whom reliance may be placed, that the Emir Beshir had convoked at the above-mentioned place a meeting of the Sheiks of Lebanon for yesterday forenoon, for the purpose of taking into consideration the payment of the taxes due for the last eight months.

At an early hour yesterday morning intelligence arrived that the individual Sheiks were approaching the town, each with an armed force of attendants, varying from 100 to 400 persons; on which, several of the principal and elderly inhabitants of the town waited upon the Emir, to beg that he would assemble the meeting at some other place, and thereby a hostile collision might be avoided; but the Emir, dull and dead to their representations, immediately sent off messengers to the individual Sheiks, to request that they would each attend the said meeting with only *five* attendants. In the meantime, 10½ A.M., the whole inhabitants, whom between 8 and 9 A.M. I had seen all quietly engaged at their various occupations in the bazaars, had shut their working shops, and the whole lines of streets presented one mass of armed people, ready to meet any thing that might occur, and examining their pistols and muskets. Shortly before 11 A.M., a Christian, who had quarrelled in the market-place with a Druse, was shot by him. A cry was immediately raised throughout the town; people were to be seen running in every direction, and before long the firing became general, and lasted till after sunset; the Christians, in the interval, having been driven into the centre of the town, the suburbs having been taken possession of by the Druses, who shortly afterwards committed them to the flames. Shortly after dark the suburbs presented one uninterrupted mass of flames, the quarter of the town from Nasif Bey's (whose son was killed early in the affray) to the valley being one continued line of fire, behind which were collected the Druses. During the whole night the town presented to the eye and ear one melancholy spectacle, the air being filled with volumes of sparkling flames, the desponding cries of the Christians, and the exulting yells of the Druses, whilst ever and anon the scene was disturbed by the tolling of the Maronite bells, only serving to render the whole more heart-rending.

An attack during the night being expected, the remaining suburbs, not yet in possession of the Druses, were deserted, the whole congregating with their families at the Seraglio and market-places, carrying with them their valuables, &c. During the night the Druses had so encroached as to cut off the principal supply of water from the inhabitants.

Throughout the whole day the Emir remained shut up in the Seraglio, in a small room, carefully secured.

Various reports arrived during the afternoon relative to individuals, and the



number of individuals killed and wounded, but no reliance can be placed upon them, the whole people whom I saw being in a state of almost supernatural excitement. The night passed away, only a little disturbed by the occasional report of a musket, or the additional consignment of a few more houses to the flames.

Shortly after five this morning, musketry was fired from all the surrounding hills, which, at daylight, presented masses of moving people.

I left shortly after 6 A.M., and before I had reached the top of the hill above the eastern part of the town, by which I was obliged to pass, the firing, screaming, and yelling had again become general. En route, I met large masses of Christians moving towards the town, headed by their priests, in a half frantic state, and that even to the outskirts of Beyrout. The individual villages through which I passed, I found either already deserted, or the people assembling to the cries of the priests, or entreaties of the females.

About an hour and a half from the town of Deir-el-Kammar, I witnessed from a distance a skirmish which lasted for about ten minutes, but could not arrive at any intelligence relative to parties or cause.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) EBENEZER ROBERTSON, R.N.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

*Memorandum of a Conversation with Sheik Yousuff.*

IN the afternoon of the 18th October, in conversing with Sheik Yousuff Hasn on the late occurrence, I asked him if he could throw any light on the misunderstanding that had existed between the Emir Beshir and the Abunekeds. Sheik Yousuff said that the question between them was a very simple one. The Emir Beshir considered that as Hakim, or Governor of the whole Mountain, he could govern the people of Deir-el-Kammar *immediately*; on the contrary, the Abunekeds were determined to adhere to the principle that he could only govern them *mediately*.

On further asking Sheik Yousuff if the late occurrences were in any way attributable to this difference of opinion, or how far it may have been a predisposing cause, he replied, that he would relate a circumstance which might throw some light on the subject.

As the time for the collection of the Miri approached, the Emir proposed hiring retainers from among the people of Deir-el-Kammar. Three days before the attack on the town, I went, unknown to the Emir Beshir or his attendants, to Sheik Nasif, who always professed himself personally friendly to me, with a view of sounding him on the subject, and inducing him by persuasion to allow the Emir Beshir to get retainers. Sheik Nasif, on my explaining the object of my visit, fell into a passion and said, 'If the Emir Beshir wishes to do anything, let him give us the order and we will lead forth our men; but if the Emir Beshir persists in his determination of acting directly with retainers (Zulemy) of Deir-el-Kammar, I myself will take the field with all my force, cut off all the roads, and blockade him in Deir-el-Kammar.' Sheik Nasif afterwards said to me in a friendly manner, 'In seven or eight days we will arrange the matter so as to satisfy the Emir Beshir.'

Inclosure 3 in No. 50.

*The Emir Beshir to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Traduction.) *Deir-el-Kammar, le 3 Ramazan (18 Octobre, 1841).*

JE me fais un devoir de vous informer de ce qui vient de se passer à Deir-el-Kammar, et à ce qui paraît que l'attaque sur cette ville fut préméditée par les Druses, et combinée par les différens Sheiks, pendant qu'ils étaient réunis pour la question des taxes, (question qui a été toujours jouée par leurs malveillantes machinations) et leur exemple a fait que le peuple procrastinait jusqu'aujourd'hui l'exécution de la Convention qui fut signée.

Quelques uns des Sheiks vinrent me demander de faire passer mes ordres

aux autres Sheiks, pour s'assembler et décider cette question. J'ai notifié par conséquent à ces derniers de se réunir Mercredi ; en effet, ces Sheiks, pendant la veille, ont proclamé des ordres à tous leurs gens Druses, de se rendre chez eux, et Mercredi matin, le rapport arriva à Deir-el-Kammar que les forces Druses étaient réunies et préparées. Alors les habitans de Deir-el-Kammar sont venus me représenter l'inconvénient de recevoir ces gens dans la ville, et ils prévoyaient des conséquences sérieuses qui en résulteraient, puisque les Sheiks susdits avaient des intentions hostiles ; ayant pris en considération leur exposition, j'ai immédiatement envoyé des ordres précis aux susdits Sheiks, de me rencontrer à la réunion à Ain-el-Souk (site loin de la ville). En attendant que les Sheiks s'approchaient avec leurs suites, j'ai envoyé les informer par le jeune Emir Mahmoud, que je ne désirais plus convoquer aucune réunion avec eux, et je ne désirais plus qu'ils se réunissent, craignant les conséquences de la présence de leurs forces à Deir-el-Kammar ; ils s'arrêtèrent donc de la ville, et dans l'intervalle, les Sheiks de la famille Nekeà, ainsi que d'autres Sheiks Druses, avec une suite considérable de Druses, qui s'étaient déjà réunis dans le quartier des Druses (pendant la nuit), entrèrent en ville, commençant à harceler les habitans dans les rues ; ils surprirent plusieurs familles dans les maisons, où ils ont saccagé les propriétés des Chrétiens, et ensuite de brûler leurs maisons et leurs boutiques, et tuer les personnes qu'ils y ont trouvées sans défense et sans armes.

Cet état de choses commença Mercredi dans l'après-midi et dura jusqu'à l'obscurité de la nuit, et les Druses avaient pris possession d'une grande partie de la ville, et les Chrétiens se sont défendus et ont réussi de pousser leurs adversaires du centre de la ville, avant la nuit du même jour. Mes gens avaient pris part dans l'action, et j'en ai perdu deux et quelques blessés, et j'ai cru à propos de les ordonner de se retirer, et de garder le Sérail avec moi, et d'être prêts à se défendre, et l'ennemi les assiégeait de tous côtés.

Le lendemain, Jeudi, à l'aube du jour, recommença la bataille, et continua jusqu'à la fin de la journée, et le même état dura tout le Vendredi, et Samedi jusqu'à midi ; et dans les quatre jours écoulés, je n'ai pas cessé nullement d'inviter les partis à la pacification, et tous les moyens, par les messages écrits et signaux, j'ai adopté, mais sans succès.

Ce jour là, dans l'après-midi, nous avons eu l'honneur de voir paraître son Excellence Ayoub Pacha et Monsieur le Colonel Rose, et le feu des deux partis a été immédiatement arrêté pour ouvrir le chemin à ces gentilshommes, et j'ai la plus grande satisfaction de les posséder dans mon Sérail, et après avoir discuté l'affaire, nous avons unanimement émané des ordres réitérés, pour calmer l'agitation, et spécialement aux assiégeans de s'éloigner, et rentrer dans l'ordre, et ceux qui bloquaient les différens chemins, et d'autres moyens à mettre la paix.

Je n'ai la moindre doute que ce complot est prémédité, et cela se prouve que les Druses avaient bloqué les différens passages difficiles qui amenaient à Deir-el-Kammar, en même temps qu'ils assaillirent la ville par surprise, afin d'empêcher que les Chrétiens puissent venir au secours de leur co-religionnaires. Les habitans Chrétiens du Deir-el-Kammar ont énormément souffert, et soutenu des pertes considérables, puisque les assassins l'ont surpris, et sans pitié ont brûlé, saccagé les maisons et les boutiques, y compris la grande localité des marchands, où des richesses et des manufactures ont été entièrement pillées.

En résumé, les adversaires n'ont laissé aucune maison qu'ils purent forcer, sans l'avoir brûlée et pillée. Quinze personnes Chrétiennes n'ont pas pu échapper des mains de l'ennemi, et privées des moyens de défense, furent assassinées dans les maisons et les boutiques des ouvriers, et 35 personnes Chrétiennes furent tuées dans le combat. Une voix vague assure que les Druses, de l'autre côté, ont perdu 200 hommes environ, mais je crois que cette dernière clause est trop exagérée. Je dois supposer que les adversaires avaient cherché, avec la ferme résolution de détruire, les Chrétiens de Deir-el-Kammar, et moi aussi, puisque ces enragés ont combattu quatre jours consécutifs, de la manière la plus animée, sans vouloir se calmer sous aucunes conditions de ce que j'ai proposé ; mais la fermeté et habileté des défenseurs a repoussé les tentatifs malveillans des agresseurs.

L'excitation et la fermentation s'étant étendues dans les autres districts du Liban, les mêmes Druses ont brûlé des petits bourgs et villages aux Chrétiens, et les Chrétiens ont fait la même chose.

Ces événemens m'ont causé la plus forte peine, et je suis bien fâché que les partis sont difficiles à pacifier définitivement, nonobstant toutes les mesures de pacification que j'ai adoptées. Je continuerai, Monsieur, mes efforts à calmer ce

feu, et faire rentrer la population de cette Montagne dans l'ordre, ce qui j'espère aura lieu, ayant déjà donné mes ordres aux chefs Druses et Chrétiens, de se retirer avec leurs forces respectives, et de cesser toute hostilité; cependant je ne saurais trop vous dire comment cet état de choses se terminera.

Dans mon opinion, évidemment sans la présence d'un corps de soldats, la population ne respectera pas l'une l'autre; j'ai expliqué à son Excellence le Pacha toutes les circonstances; j'espère, ainsi que je désire chaudement, que le Suprême donne une bonne fin à améliorer l'état actuel de ce pays. Je vous ferai connaître à son tems le résultat de nos négociations; j'aimerai avoir toujours de vos nouvelles, et de me dire ce qui se passe dans l'affaire de mon bien aimé, l'Emir Saïd-el-Deen, et je suis prêt à vous servir.

Croyez moi, &c.  
(Signé) E. B. SHEHAB.

(Translation.)

*Deir-el-Kammar,*  
3 Ramazan, (October 18, 1841.

I FEEL it my duty to inform you of what has just occurred at Deir-el-Kammar, and that the attack, as it appears, upon that town was premeditated by the Druses and combined by the different Sheiks, whilst they were assembled upon the question of taxation, (a question always made use of for their mischievous plans,) and their example has caused the people to put off up to the present day the execution of the agreement which was signed.

Some of the Sheiks came to ask me to issue my instructions to the other Sheiks, to assemble and settle this question. I in consequence notified to the latter that they should meet on Wednesday; accordingly these Sheiks, in the course of the preceding day, issued orders to all their Druse people, that they should join them; and, on the Wednesday morning, the report that the Druse forces were assembled together and prepared, arrived at Deir-el-Kammar. The inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar then came to me in order to represent to me the inconvenience of receiving these people in the town, and they foresaw serious consequences which would result from it, inasmuch as the said Sheiks had hostile intentions: having considered their statement, I immediately sent particular orders to the said Sheiks, to join me at the place of meeting at Ain-el-Souk (about half an hour's distance from the town). Whilst waiting the approach of the Sheiks with their attendants, I sent the young Emir Mahmood to inform them that I was no longer desirous of a meeting with them or of their assembling together, fearing the effect of the presence of their forces at Deir-el-Kammar; they halted outside the town, and in the mean while the Sheiks of the family of Noked, as well as other Druse Sheiks, with a numerous train of Druses, who had already (during the night) assembled together in the Druse quarters, entered the town, beginning to fight the inhabitants in the streets; they surprized many families in their houses, where they plundered the property of the Christians, and then burnt their houses and shops, and killed the persons whom they found there defenceless and unarmed.

This state of affairs began on the Wednesday afternoon and lasted till dark; and the Druses had obtained possession of a large part of the town, and the Christians had defended themselves, and had succeeded in driving out their adversaries from the middle of the town, before the night of the same day. My people had taken part in the action, and I lost two and some wounded, and I thought it fit to order them to retire, and to remain in the Seraglio with me, and to be prepared to defend themselves, the enemy surrounding them on all sides.

The next day, Thursday, at daybreak, the battle recommenced, and lasted till the end of the day, and the same state of affairs lasted all Friday and till noon on Saturday; and during the four days thus employed, I never ceased pressing a reconciliation on the parties, and I adopted every means both by writing and by signals, but without success.

That day, in the afternoon, we had the honour to witness the arrival of his Excellency Ayoub Pasha and Colonel Rose, and the fire of the two parties was immediately stopped in order to open a passage for these gentlemen, and I have

now the great satisfaction of entertaining them in my Seraglio ; and after having discussed the subject, we unanimously issued repeated orders to calm the agitation, and more particularly to the besiegers and those who were blockading the roads, that they should withdraw, and return to order, with other like methods for restoring peace.

I have not the least doubt that this plot has been a premeditated one, and this is proved by the fact that the Druses had shut up the different difficult approaches leading to Deir-el-Kammar, at the same time that they attacked it unawares, so as to prevent the Christians from coming to the assistance of their co-religionists. The Christian inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar have suffered terribly, and have sustained considerable losses, inasmuch as the assassins took them by surprise, and without remorse burnt and plundered houses and shops, and amongst these the great quarter of the merchants where rich property and manufactures were completely pillaged.

To sum up, the enemy left no house into which they could force an entrance, without pillaging it and setting it on fire. Fifteen Christians, were unable to escape out of the hands of their enemies, and, being without means of defence, were assassinated in the houses and workshops, and thirty-five Christians were killed in the fight. A vague report asserts that the Druses, on the other hand, have lost about 200 men, but I believe that this last statement is exaggerated. I must believe that their adversaries had sought out, with a firm determination to destroy them, the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar, and myself also, inasmuch as these madmen fought for four consecutive days, in the most furious manner, without allowing themselves to be pacified by any conditions which I proposed to them ; but the firmness and skill of the defenders frustrated the wicked attempts of their aggressors.

The excitement and ferment having spread to the other districts of the Lebanon, the same Druses burnt the small Christian towns and villages, and the Christians have done as much.

These events have caused me the greatest concern, and I regret much that the two parties are so hard to be definitively pacified, notwithstanding all the means which I have adopted to pacify them. I shall continue, Sir, my endeavours to allay this excitement, and to restore order amongst the population of the Mountain, which I hope will be the case, as I have already ordered the Druse and Christian chiefs to retire with their respective forces, and to cease all acts of hostility ; nevertheless, I would not too confidently say how this state of affairs will end.

In my own opinion, it is plain that without the presence of a body of soldiers, one party amongst this people will never respect the other ; I have explained all the circumstances to his Excellency the Pasha ; I hope, as I warmly desire, that God will grant a means for the improvement of the state of affairs in this country. I will at the proper time let you know the result of our negotiations. I shall always have pleasure in hearing of you, and that you should inform me what is going on in the matter of my beloved Emir Said-el-Deen, and I am ready to serve you.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) E. B. SPIELB.

Inclosure 4 in No. 50.

Major Churchill to Colonel Rose.

Beyrout, October 20, 1841.

NEJIB PASHA said, to me, when I observed that I had heard the mountaineers of the Lebanon were not satisfied with the new fiscal arrangements offered them by the Porte, "That is a matter of very little importance, for I would undertake to keep the mountaineers in order with two battalions of infantry. I should not indeed have occasion to use any force at all, for by creating a division between the parties I should be able to keep both in check." The Defterdar said something of the same sort.

(Signed) CHARLES CHURCHILL.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, October 20, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on the 14th instant, as soon as I heard of the reports of the attack on Deir-el-Kammar, I waited on the Seraskier and acquainted him with them. His Excellency told me that he had not received any official account, but that he was making inquiry respecting the truth of them. Four hours afterwards Assistant-Surgeon Robertson arrived, when I took that officer's report to his Excellency, and caused the report to be translated to him. I respectfully suggested to his Excellency that immediate measures should be taken for quelling the disorder.

He agreed with me, and after consulting with Ayoub Pasha, said that he would send an officer to Deir-el-Kammar, and asked me whether I would send a British officer along with him, to endeavour to restore order. I immediately assented, and named Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins, of the Royal Artillery, telling him that he well knew that nobody was more anxious than myself, for the maintenance of the Sultan's authority, and of peace.

I suggested that these gentlemen should take with them a flag of truce and trumpeter, and as small an escort as possible, in order not to excite the jealousy of either Maronites or Druses. Five cavalry accordingly were ordered to accompany Ayoub Pasha and Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins.

I observed to the Seraskier, that Viscount Palmerston had informed me, that France had now signed with the other Four Powers and with the Porte, a Convention, which was the result of the termination of what has been called the Eastern Question, and that Admiral La Susse had also informed me that France had entered into the Treaty of the 15th July; if therefore the Seraskier invited the French Consul, who had an influence, sanctioned to a certain extent by Treaty and usage, over the Catholic clerical communities in the Lebanon, it might further our object, which was the restoration of order in the interests of humanity. His Excellency observed, that if all the Maronite people were to join in the combat, he could not solicit the co-operation of the French Consul. I remarked, that of course it was my wish that the Consuls, or Agents, of the other Powers should also be invited to join us.

I reflected afterwards, that it would be advisable that I should go myself instead of Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins, and I did not think that Selim Bey, a Turkish Lieutenant-Colonel (a rank which the Turks hold in very little estimation,) was exactly the sort of person who ought to go on so delicate a mission.

I stated to the Seraskier and Defterdar, that I thought it best that I should go myself; they answered that they would feel the greatest pleasure if I did so, and Selim Pasha immediately said, that he would send Ayoub Pasha, Chief of the Staff, with me. Both Selim Pasha and the Defterdar said that Ayoub Pasha and myself had full powers from them, to take whatever measures we chose, for the restoration of order, for that they knew that our sole object would be the good of the Sultan's Government.

I mentioned again the subject of the other Consuls. His Excellency said I might ask them from him to join us, but that he would not write to any of them. I accordingly made a communication to M. Bourrée, the French Consul, and M. Laurella, the Austrian Vice-Consul, and M. Wickerhauser, who were good enough to come to me. I communicated to M. Bourrée the substance of what I had told the Seraskier. He said that for the sake of humanity he should be very happy to accompany me, that he had heard through the public journals that France had entered into an arrangement of the Affairs of the East with the other Powers, but that he had received no official instructions from his Government which altered the position of the French Agent in this country.

M. Bourrée then said, that if the Seraskier would invite him in writing to go to Deir-el-Kammar with Ayoub Pasha and myself he would go. M. Laurella and M. Wickerhauser said the same. I remarked, that the Turks did not like writing, and that the Seraskier's request to me was verbal, but that I would request the Seraskier to write to them on the subject. I sent a note to

his Excellency at nine o'clock, but his servants stated that he was in his Harem, and that they would not take on themselves the responsibility of disturbing him. M. Bourrée then wished me to wait another day, but I replied that I could not do so, for that in events such as those which had occurred at Deir-el-Kammar, five minutes' loss or gain might make the most unfortunate difference. He then said, that I should find him in Deir-el-Kammar co-operating with me the day after my arrival, but he never came there. In answer to my note to the Seraskier, his Excellency said, that he could not write to the gentlemen in question, but that he should be glad if they would accompany myself. I sent this message to M. Bourrée and the Austrian Vice-Consul, by Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins, and I have the honour to inclose their replies.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

*M. Bourrée to Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins.*

Monsieur,

*Beyrout, 15 Octobre, 1841.*

J'AI reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire ce matin : vous m'y répétez, au nom de M. le Colonel Rose, ce qu'il m'avait dit lui verbalement, du désir qu'aurait Son Excellence le Séraskir de me voir accompagner à Deir-el-Kammar M. le Colonel Rose, pour l'aider à rétablir l'ordre si déplorablement troublé dans cette province du Sultan.

En appelant de tous mes vœux le succès malheureusement bien douteux de la difficile entreprise de M. le Colonel Rose, je regrette, Monsieur, d'être obligé de me tenir en dehors d'une démarche à laquelle le Pacha a voulu rester personnellement étranger, en ce qui me concerne, car la situation présente du pays n'a donné lieu à aucune communication de Son Excellence au Consulat de France.

Veillez recevoir, Monsieur, &c.,

(Signé) J. BOURREE,  
*Consul de France à Beyrouth.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Beyrout, October 15, 1841.*

I HAVE received the letter which you did me the honour of addressing to me this morning ; you repeat to me in it, in Colonel Rose's name, that which he verbally communicated to me, as to the wish of his Excellency the Seraskier that I should accompany Colonel Rose to Deir-el-Kammar, in order to assist him in re-establishing the order which has been so lamentably disturbed in this province of the Sultan.

While wishing sincerely for the success, unfortunately very doubtful, of the difficult enterprize of Colonel Rose, I regret, Sir, to be obliged to hold myself aloof from a proceeding to which the Pasha has chosen individually to be a stranger, as far as I am concerned, inasmuch as the existing state of the country has given rise to no communication from his Excellency to the French Consulate.

Receive, &c.,  
(Signed) J. BOURREE,  
*French Consul at Beyrout.*

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Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

*The Austrian Vice-Consul at Beyrout to Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins.*

M. le Colonel,

J'AI reçu la communication que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de me transmettre, de la part de M. le Colonel Rose, pour me rendre à la Montagne, et y concourir avec lui au rétablissement du bon ordre et de la tranquillité parmi les Maronites et les Druses.

N 2



Ne me jugeant autorisé d'intervenir dans une telle affaire, sans un désir formel que Son Excellence Selim Pacha manifesterait à ce Vice-Consulat, je regrette beaucoup, M. le Colonel, de ne pouvoir contribuer que par des vœux à l'heureux succès de la mission de M. le Colonel Rose, ce qui me paraît d'ailleurs fort douteux, au point où en sont les partis.

Je saisis cette occasion, &c.,

(Signé) **GIORGIO LAURELLA.**

(Translation.)

M. le Colonel,

I HAVE received the communication which you did me the honour to transmit to me, on Colonel Rose's part, requesting that I would proceed to the Mountain, and there co-operate with him in re-establishing good order and tranquillity between the Maronites and Druses.

Not considering myself authorized to interfere in any such matter, without the expression to this Vice-Consulate of a formal wish on the part of his Excellency Selim Pasha, I regret much, M. le Colonel, not to have it in my power to contribute further than by my good wishes to the success of Colonel Rose's mission, which moreover appears to me to be very doubtful, considering the present state of the parties.

I avail myself, &c.,

(Signed) **GEORGE LAURELLA.**

No. 52.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, October 22, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that on the 15th instant, Ayoub Pasha, Captain Arbuthnott, and myself, with my staff, proceeded to Deir-el-Kammar. We heard previously to starting, that the Maronites were assembling in every direction to assist their countrymen in Deir-el-Kammar, and the Druses were collecting their forces to defend all the passes leading to it.

A mile from the town, we fell in with some armed men, and a Sheik, who were hurrying on, they said, to engage the Druses. I heard afterwards that this person said, that we were not going to make peace, but to give powder and ball to the Druses. Two miles further on we met with a detachment of armed Maronites, with three or four mounted leaders. We learnt from them that the Emir Emin Raslan, a Druse, had taken possession of the passes a little beyond Aines-Sabul on the road to Ainoob, Djesr-el-Kadi, and would let no one pass. The Maronites (some of them were drunk) were disposed to be insolent to us; they repeated the report which had been industriously circulated by agents the evening before, or the morning of our departure, that our baggage contained powder for the Druses, and showed a disposition to search it, but did not do so. Mr. Paton overheard three or four of them propose to shoot us, the rest overruled them. The Maronites wished that we should march with them against the Druses: we declined to do so, telling them that our duty was to make peace. In order to avoid further interruptions, Ayoub Pasha directed the Emir Soliman, to whose house we had gone, to accompany us through the Maronite lines. Here we saw the Sheik again, who said that we were going to take powder to the Druses. Looking out of the window he declared that European troops were disembarking on the beach; his intention was to excite the armed people, who were about the house in numbers, against us, by making them think that these troops were going to march against them, the Maronites. I told him that he had told a falsehood, and that he knew that he had done so, and that I should have him punished; he immediately said, with the servility which is so common amongst these people, "I am your servant, and the servant of your Government." What I have stated will give your Lordship some idea of the manner in which malicious reports are fabricated in this country.

We passed by another Maronite post, who were in good order and civil;



they were strongly posted at Ain-es-Sabul. In ten minutes we reached the Druse outposts, double sentries in the gardens commanding the road; they challenged us, and having ascertained who we were, sent us on to their support and reserve; they were singing their war-song, and escorted our party back to Ainanoob; they received the Pasha with every mark of honour. Emir Emin Raslan, whose arrest I mentioned in my despatch of the 3rd of May, commanded this detachment at this place, Ainanoob, half way between Beyrout and Deir-el-Kammar; it consisted of about three hundred and fifty men. He affected ignorance of the events at Deir-el-Kammar, and said, that he was merely acting on the defensive, and that the Christians living in the villages occupied by him, had not been injured; this latter part of his statement was true; he said that he should conform to our orders, and make no hostile movements unless he was attacked. We passed the night there at the house of the Emir Mohamed Raslan. The Pasha and myself wrote letters to the Emirs Melkem Shehab, and Assad, who commanded the Christians, and to Nasif Bey and the Druse chiefs at Deir-el-Kammar, who were investing it, telling them that we were empowered by the Seraskier to call on them immediately to cease hostilities, and desiring them so to do. In the evening a messenger arrived from the plains with the news that the Emir Melkem with several hundred men intended to force a passage that night, and that in order to insure the success of the movement, the Emir Assad was to make a feint from Abba.

Lieutenant Rowan tells me that he slept in the room in which the two Druse chiefs were writing and giving orders, and in front of which the reliefs of the outposts were paraded, and that he was surprised at the coolness and perfect quiet with which everything was done. The next morning we proceeded to Deir-el-Kammar, passing by Djesr-el-Kadi, a bridge over the river Kadi, a strong position; on this side of it, which is low, the Christians had a detachment commanded by the priests, one with an axe in his hand; on the other, a very strong position, the Druses had one. It is about four miles from Beyrout to the foot of the mountains, over which the road leads to Deir-el-Kammar. The greater part of this road, which varies from three to six feet in breadth, is constructed along the side and over the top of high mountains, and a great part of it is so steep, that it has been made by the formation of a series of stone steps; from Djesr-el-Kadi to Deir-el-Kammar is five miles, and the whole distance from Beyrout to Deir-el-Kammar is twenty-five miles, and with the exception of the first three miles and a half, it could be defended with an inferior against a superior force with ease. On the right of the road in the valley about three miles from Deir-el-Kammar: we saw the villages of Deir Dooneet, and Ain Gharzy, burning; they had been attacked the day before by Nasif Bey, he had killed about forty of the inhabitants, fired their houses, and the survivors had retired towards the sea. A Druse chief conducted us to the house of Nasif Bey, in the beginning of the town of Deir-el-Kammar; he was not there; this was the head-quarter of the Druses, who were investing the town, and there was a large body of them in and under cover of the house; two Druses in the court-yard were dancing, with drawn swords, the Azah dance, to the time which was given by the singing of the remainder, and the scene was made horrible by the sight of two heads, which were placed as trophies on the wall. The town, as I have had the honour already to state to your Lordship, was blockaded by the Druses, both parties firing at each other as opportunities offered, or any object was seen. I was nearly struck when looking at what was going on, when the Druses pulled me under cover. Ayoub Pasha and myself entered a house, and directed the Druse chiefs to cause an immediate cessation of firing, which was done instantly, and sent in a flag of truce to Emir Beshir, with our request to his Highness that he would immediately give similar orders to his people. The Druse chiefs now assembled in the house where we were; two chiefs, one of them, Emir Ahmet Raslan, an old man, who had been for some time in Turkey, said that they were Mussulmans, and could not bear to hear the bell of the Christian Church to overpower the cries of the Mooryani when he called them to prayer; this was said by them to please the Turks: others said that they respected the Emir Beshir, because he is named by the Sultan, but that they could not bear to be under the Christians' dominion, because they made use of their power to oppress them.

The Druses stated that the Christians began the affray by killing a Druse, that Nasif Bey sent his son to restore order, who was killed, and that these were

the causes of all the subsequent events. I do not believe these statements. About this time Nasif Bey entered the room, he had just returned from the attack of the two villages, which I have mentioned. Lieutenant Rowan saw him return, and states that the leading files of the Druses had heads of Christians on poles, these heads were afterwards thrown down on the road leading to the Serai, and Captain Arbuthnott counted nineteen of them. Nasif Bey said that he had killed eighty Christians that morning, but that a thousand lives, or any earthly consideration, would not compensate for his son; he stated that the fault was on the side of the Christians, that they had attacked the Druses, and killed his son, and he added, "Now what do you think of the Christian Government, and what a pretty specimen of Christian Government this is?" The Emir Beshir informed us that he had ordered a cessation of the firing, and that he would be glad to see us. Our arrival at Deir-el-Kammar was opportune, several of the Emir Beshir's people having only two rounds left, nor were they well supplied with food or water. The Emir Beshir, by our advice, in order to terminate effectually further hostilities, sent conjointly with us, for some of the Druse Sheiks: Emir Ahmet Raslan, and the Kadi came. They were enjoined to communicate to the Druse Sheiks, the Seraskier's and Emir Beshir's orders, to withdraw their force from the position which they had assumed round the town, and not to commit any fresh act of hostility; they promised to do so, but required that the Christians should act in the same manner. This was done, and it is a singular fact, that from that day, the 16th, up to the 27th instant, when the last accounts were received from Deir-el-Kammar, the fighting has totally ceased, although the irritation existing between both parties has been as great as can be well imagined. The Emir Beshir, on my taking leave of him, thanked me very earnestly, and wrote me a letter of thanks for the assistance which I had contributed to give him.

## No. 53.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, October 28, 1841.*

FROM inquiries made on the spot, I have the honour to present your Lordship with the following details of the late assault on Deir-el-Kammar.

The 13th of October was the day fixed upon by the Emir Beshir, for the great meeting of the Sheiks, in order to apportion, and make the necessary arrangements for the collection of, the Miri. His Highness dined at noon that day in his palace, with his nephew, the Emir Mahmoud Shehab, lately returned from banishment to Sennaar, when intelligence arrived from Kefr Nebrok, that Sheik Hootoor Amad and his relations, the Sheiks Abdel, Selam, and Melkem, were assembling armed men, in order to come to the meeting. His Highness, from a presentiment of the evil consequences that might ensue, dispatched the Emir Mahmoud to these Chiefs, with a message that they should come attended with only a few retainers, as otherwise a collision might be the result. Scarcely had the Emir Mahmoud reached the lower part of the valley, when a rapid succession of shots fired in the opposite direction, recalled him to the town, which was already in great confusion, the shops were all shut, the inhabitants getting under arms, and the Emir Beshir barricading himself in his palace.

The Druses of Deir-el-Kammar, supported by others from the neighbourhood, who had collected and remained concealed in their quarter, which is situated above the town, and separated from it by a short space, had, on the pretext of a Druse having been killed in front of the Seraglio (the Christians state that exactly the contrary took place), rushed down to the Meidan, and attempted to force their way into the interior of the town, killing several defenceless persons on their way.

The first attacking party, about seventy in number, was led by Sheik Ali, the son of Sheik Nasif, and, to the promptitude with which the Christians flew to arms, seems alone attributable the escape of the Emir Beshir, his attendants, and his palace, from fire and sword. Sheik Ali himself was killed in the advance.

An obstinate fight ensued in the streets of Deir-el-Kammar, which lasted till sunset. From the moment that he lost his son, Nasif Bey, appears to have become a demon. The Druses reinforced by new comers, and led on by him,

poured into the lanes of the Greek Catholic quarter, where the wealthiest families reside. The house, or rather the palace, of Mualem Butros Caramey, the Secretary of the Ex-Emir Beshir, was one of the first to be attacked, plundered, and burnt—consisting of above thirty apartments, forming three sides of a large court-yard, and inhabited only by the two sons of the proprietor, and a few servants; defence was useless. The new and handsome house of Ibrahim Meshaka, a wealthy Greek Catholic merchant, was next attacked and destroyed, the brother and two servants were killed, but the Harem was permitted to escape to the Seraglio.

The Greek Catholics, finding that they could not stand their ground, retired to the strong positions formed by the Seraglio, the lofty palace of Jirius Baaz, the Maronite Convent, and a few other houses in the centre of the town. A fine house, the residence of the Kiaja of the Emir Halil, son of the Ex-Emir Beshir, in the Damascene court-yard of which was a fountain, was repeatedly assaulted by bands of forty and fifty Druses, in order to cut off the water, but being well defended, escaped; but nearly all the houses in the west of the town were sacked and burnt.

The attacking Druse force varied from 900 to 1500 men, but this force was diminished as parties were sent off either to make or to repel attack. The Christian force was about 800 or 1000 strong.

The Christians thus hemmed in, redoubled their efforts to make good their position, and the night was passed in working at the breastworks and barricades. Meanwhile the *zook*, or war-cry, passed from village to village, and, before morning, was communicated over the whole of Mount Lebanon.

During the 14th a brisk fire was kept up between the Christian and the Druse positions. The Druses had now completely surrounded the town, the precipitous heights having been occupied by parties that galled the inmates of the palace, while all the thickly planted mulberry gardens which extended to the bottom of the valley, were invested by Sheik Said Djinblat and the retainers of his family from Mooktara.

On the 15th the Druses penetrated to the Kaiserieh, or Exchange, and burnt it along with the bazaars, the most valuable property having been removed and conveyed to the Druse country, but where it is deposited I am unable to inform your Lordship.

Deir-el-Kammar lies on the side of a range of mountains, and on our arrival on the 16th, I perceived the crags that overhang it covered with Druses, who had thus changed the attack into a blockade, which was probably occasioned by the necessity that had arisen to weaken the attacking force, by detaching parties to defend the passes leading from Meten to Deir-el-Kammar.

On reaching the Meidan we perceived the Greek Catholic Quarter on our right in ruins. The extensive trades' bazaars were also in ruins, as well as the Kaiserieh, a large and substantial quadrangle, built of stone, which served as the exchange, counting-houses, and warehouses of the general merchants, drapers and silk dealers; the fire had not reached the back part of the building, but all the shops had been plundered.

The great gate of the Seraglio was badly barricaded with stones, and on entering the court-yard I found it crowded with horses and armed men. The Seraglio is an old, high, and extensive building, with two courts; it is situated in the centre of the town, and formed a sort of citadel in which the wives and children of the citizens had taken refuge after having been driven in from the suburbs. The adjoining Maronite Convent served the same purpose, and accommodated some of the wounded. Here were upwards of 2500 individuals inhaling a most unhealthy atmosphere, impregnated with the effluvia of hastily buried corpses, added to that arising from the crowding of men, women, children, wounded, and animals, in so small a space.

I may add in conclusion, that at a moderate computation, the value of the property destroyed in, or abstracted from Deir-el-Kammar, is estimated at from seventy to eighty thousand pounds sterling.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, October 28, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on the 19th instant I visited the Seraskier at the Defterdar's, by appointment. I found there Mustapha Pasha, a general, and four colonels. It appeared that this assembly was a council. I told the Seraskier what Ayoub Pasha and myself had done. Both his Excellency and the Defterdar thanked me very cordially. I told them that I was ever ready to advance the Sultan's interests by every means in my power, and that if their Excellencies would be pleased to treat me always with frankness, and inform me whenever they required my humble aid, that it should be cheerfully given. They said that they were aware of this, that they had the most perfect confidence in me, and that for this reason they had asked me to send an officer to Deir-el-Kammar, but that they were still more pleased when I had offered to go myself. I gave them an account of the events of Deir-el-Kammar, of the premeditated attack by the Druses, and of their cruelties, which they said agreed with that of Ayoub Pasha. They asked me, "which of the two parties were to blame?" I replied, that in the first collision on the 14th of September, the Christians were the aggressors, but that in my opinion the second attack was the result of a premeditated and wicked conspiracy of the Druse chiefs, and carried into execution with great cruelty. They said, "that they quite agreed with me, and that the Druses had no right to act so cruelly towards the Christian subjects of the Porte; that their conduct was rebellious, and that they should hold them accountable for it."

Their Excellencies having requested me to give my opinion on the state of affairs, I detailed the particulars of a skirmish which I had witnessed that morning. I observed that it was a breach of the truce which had been proclaimed and acted on at Deir-el-Kammar; that the Druses had withdrawn their posts which protected the road to Deir-el-Kammar; but that the attack on Shooyfaat, and the intention which the Emir Melkem's force proclaimed of marching against and exterminating the Druses, would nullify all the good results which might be obtained from the four days' cessation of hostilities at the principal and original scene of conflict, Deir-el-Kammar; and I gave it as my opinion, that the rapid march of as large a Turkish force as could be collected on Deir-el-Kammar was an indispensable measure for the re-establishment of order. I observed, that in the present degree of uncertainty between both parties, the prudent use of such a force would preclude all opposition. The Seraskier said, in reply, that they wished to settle matters quietly, and that therefore they thought it would be best to write most strict orders, by two authorities of the town, to both parties, to desist from further hostilities; that if either party disobeyed, they would side against it with the other; that they would announce a pardon for the past, and desire the attendance of the leaders of both parties at Beyrout, when the government would endeavour to arrange their differences; but that if they could not effect this, they would refer the matter to Constantinople. I observed, in reply, that positive orders had already been sent to both parties to cease hostilities, and to retire; but the events of the morning proved that they had not been obeyed, and I very much feared that the leaders of neither party would come to Beyrout; and, with the utmost respect for the opinions of their Excellencies, I thought that in emergencies like the present promptitude of action was the only remedy for evils which were revolting to humanity, and most prejudicial to the Sultan's authority. Mr. Werry, Her Majesty's Consul, I said, had informed me, that, during my absence, the Patriarch, whom his co-religionists look upon with singular veneration, and obeyed implicitly, had threatened to excommunicate any person who did not take up arms, and march against the Druses; that the force under the Emirs Melkem and Abdallah, amounting to about four thousand men, were a mass of irritated persons, without a trace of discipline or order, animated by the orders of their spiritual head, hatred of their opponents, and the desire of avenging the grievous wrong sustained by their countrymen; that they would not probably attempt to force their passage to Deir-el-Kammar, but would spread through the country, and burn the isolated houses of the Druses, and commit every sort of disorder. The Druses, I continued, would not be slow in fol-

lowing their example, when the civil war, which was now only partial, would probably become a general one throughout Syria. I ventured, therefore, to suggest,—

1. That it would be advisable that their Excellencies should be pleased to write to the Patriarch, requesting his Eminence to withdraw his order, because they, the Sultan's officers, had proclaimed and enjoined peace to all, for the general good, and for the sake of doing justice to every body.

2. That orders should be sent to the Emirs Melkem and Abdallah to march their forces to the right bank of the Dog River, and that promises should be made to them, that those who had been injured at Deir-el-Kammar should receive ample redress.

3. That a strong force should be sent as soon as possible to Deir-el-Kammar by the Damour road, and a brigade of observation be stationed at Damour, and another at Baabda, or the heights near it, watching the Beyrout and Deir-el-Kammar roads, and that another Turkish force might move from Damascus to the plain of the Bekaa, and at a short distance from Deir-el-Kammar, and co-operate with the force stationed there.

The Turkish officers agreed with me, but the Turks never will take decisive measures, and in this instance, as usual, they took a half one. They said they would send 1200 men, and four pieces of artillery, about three miles out of the town, on the right of the road leading to Sidon, as well as a battalion from the latter place to Damour, and that two commissioners should proceed to the Druses and Christians, to endeavour to arrange matters between them amicably. If they failed, they would side with the party which was most in the wrong. The Defterdar and Seraskier thanked me for my opinions, and requested me to come to them continually, and without ceremony.

I fear that this demonstration will only strengthen two opinions which exist. The first, that the Turks, for the purpose of retaining their influence in the Mountain, have excited the Druses against the Christians, and encouraged the former in their desire to be independent of the latter; the second, that they are afraid to send their troops into the Mountain; either of which suppositions are most prejudicial to the Turkish Government. In confirmation of the first opinion, Ayoub Pasha made the remarkable avowal to me, "that he had heard that the Druses intended to revolt fourteen days before they attacked Deir-el-Kammar." I have already had the honour to represent to your Lordship the utter inaction of Selim Pasha, since the collision at Bakalein between the Christians and Druses, although I, an eye-witness of that occurrence, had represented to him that the consequences of it would, if not averted, produce a civil war.

No. 55.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, October 28, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on the 23rd instant the Dragoman of the Emir Beshir requested the Seraskier, in the presence of his Kiaja, to send succour to his Highness at Deir-el-Kammar, of which he was in great want. The Seraskier told the Dragoman, that the conduct of the Christians did not please him; that if the Druses had done wrong the Christians should have applied legally to the Government for redress, and that if the Christians were not quiet, the Government would go with the Druses. The Dragoman replied, that for the sake of the honour of the Nishan, which the Emir Beshir wore, and of the Sultan's authority, the Emir at least ought to have better provisions than horse-flesh.

Ayoub Pasha returned on the afternoon of the 21st instant from Deir-el-Kammar, which appeared singular to me, as he had told me that he should remain there for some time. The Emir Beshir was thus deprived of the good effects of the Pasha's presence, and as the communication between Deir-el-Kammar and Beyrout was closed, only one old man having arrived with a verbal message from the Prince, that his Highness had neither barley nor food, I thought it right to make an immediate representation to the Seraskier, especially as hourly accounts were arriving of encounters between Christians and Druses in different parts of the country, which, being in breach of the peace, would naturally tend to bring

on a fresh collision at Deir-el-Kammar, and thus render the position of the Prince still more critical.

The demonstration of the Turkish troops, amounting to twelve hundred men, four light field-pieces, with sixty artillerymen, and a few irregular cavalry, who proceeded on the 21st instant to their encampment, three miles from hence, had been perfectly useless, both parties having skirmished within their sight.

The Seraskier had proceeded to the camp; I therefore had an interview with the Defterdar. Mr. Werry was so good as to accompany me. We represented to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government had been instrumental in placing the Emir Beshir in power last year; that, such being the case, I begged to represent most respectfully to his Excellency that Her Majesty's servants felt that without impropriety they might request to know what steps had been taken for protecting his person, and his authority, as Ayoub Pasha had now left his Highness, and the communications with Deir-el-Kammar were stopped, so much so that his Excellency was without sufficient food.

The Defterdar said that we had every right to make the inquiry; that Selim Bey, the Kadi, and the Governor, had been sent that morning with forty horsemen to Deir-el-Kammar, to invite the Prince, on the part of the Seraskier, to return to Beyrout. I asked the Defterdar whether the escort was to accompany his Highness back to Beyrout? He said, "No;" but that the Turkish authorities had sent firmans, or passports, enjoining the Druses to give him a safe passage, and that a bimbashi, or major, would accompany his Highness, with two or three mounted men. I remarked, that his Highness's life had been the principal object of the attack on Deir-el-Kammar, that the Druse Chiefs did not disguise their animosity to him, and that, if thus weakly protected, he were to proceed from Deir-el-Kammar, he would in all probability be killed, not by an open attack, but by some few Druses concealed behind rocks. The Defterdar said that the order to him, the Emir, to come was a discretionary one, and that if there was danger he would not come.

In the evening, by appointment, Captain Pring, of Her Majesty's ship "Inconstant," and myself, saw the Seraskier and Defterdar. M. Bourrée, the French Consul, was there. He said that he had received letters from the Maronite Sheiks, in which they complained that the Government desired them to make peace with the Druses, without guaranteeing them against any future attacks of the Druses.

The French Consul stated that he wished to have their opinions on the subject, and added, that the Turkish Government would do well to make demonstrations in favour of the Christians, who would be satisfied with it. The Seraskier replied, that the Christians blamed the Druses for having commenced the affray, but that the Druses, on their side, asserted that the attack originated with the Christians, and that, in this state of things, the Government wished to maintain a perfect neutrality, in order not to irritate either party; a singular declaration for the head of the Government, who appeared to consider the civil war existing between two parties of his Sovereign's subjects as a legitimate conflict between two foreign powers, betwixt whom his Excellency, as a third and unconcerned power, had offered to mediate.

The Seraskier and Defterdar requested me to give my opinion first, as to the cause of the fatal occurrence at Deir-el-Kammar. I said that I could only repeat my former opinion, that in the collision at Bakalein the blame lay with the Christians, for that they had given the first offence, and had shown a disposition rather to aggravate than to atone for it, and further that the results proved that the Druses were in no way prepared for hostilities.

That with regard to the attack on Deir-el-Kammar, the entire culpability must rest on the Druse chiefs, who had planned and executed it, the Christian inhabitants being perfectly unconscious of danger. M. Bourrée immediately said, "Vous avez parfaitement raison, Monsieur." Their Excellencies also expressed their agreement with this view of the case. I then recapitulated, with Captain Pring's sanction, my arguments in favour of the march of the Turkish troops to Deir-el-Kammar, which I have previously had the honour to state to your Lordship, observing that Captain Pring and myself, as the servants of Her Majesty's Government, which had never failed to give honest advice and effectual assistance to the Sublime Porte in the most trying emergencies where sincerity of promises and integrity of purpose were subject to the best and real test,—practical proof,—



conceived that that measure was the safest, perhaps the only mode of upholding the Sultan's authority, and restoring tranquillity.

Your Lordship will scarcely believe that, with the exception of sending written orders by government officers to the leaders of the Christians and Druses to retire, and to come to Beyrout to make their complaints, and inviting the Emir Beshir to pass with a bimbashi, and five men, through the country of the Druses, who had, only a few days before, made a four days' desperate and pre-meditated attack on his life, not one step has been taken to restore order in this distracted country; for the position of the Sultan's troops, quiet spectators as they have been for eight days of every species of infraction of their master's authority, has made them unavoidably amongst the inhabitants an object of ridicule rather than of awe. But a graver consideration has arisen from the position of these troops and other circumstances connected with the late unfortunate events, and from the mode in which the Turkish authorities have dealt with them. Persons of all classes and nations, the Consuls, merchants, and others, appear to be convinced that the Turkish authorities have not only not honestly exerted themselves to suppress such dangerous inroads on humanity and public security, but that they, for the reasons which I have stated, have encouraged, and are still encouraging them; nor can I see in what manner the servants of the Porte in this country will be able to justify themselves for their public acts, such as that they never investigated the fatal affray at Bakalein, or took measures to prevent on the same scene the recurrence of disorders which have brought on civil war, or their having removed Emir Said-el-Deen, who had kept peace between the Druses and Christians, from his government, and made Shibli Arian, an utterly worthless person and a Druse partizan, governor in his stead: the first act of this person was, to give powder to the Druses. I need not repeat to your Lordship the conduct of the Turkish Government with respect to the Emir Beshir, and their singular mode of proceeding since the 20th instant.

In the last interview I had with the Seraskier and Defterdar, I thought that I observed less frankness in their communications, and this, with the sudden return of Ayoub Pasha, makes me surmise that they have received communications from Nejib Pasha, which, of course, if they comply with them, would render these officers less well-disposed towards Her Majesty's servants than they were at first.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 56.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, October 29, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that the following is as correct an account of the number of the belligerent Maronites and Druses as I have been enabled to obtain, with the names of their leaders and their stations.

#### MARONITE FORCES.

Emir Kais and Faris Shehab is in Abbaye with 800 men.

Emir Abdallah joined him on the 23rd instant with 1300 men.

Sheik Gamloos is in Rasheya with 500 men.

Emirs Melkem and Haidar are in Baabda and the neighbourhood with 3,400 men.

Abusumra, an officer in the Emir Beshir's service, is with 1300 men in and about Djenin. Two bishops, Bishop Jousuff at Djenin and Bishop Philip, the brothers of the Patriarch, and a quantity of parish priests are with this force.

It is stated that a further reinforcement of 600 men are coming from Akka, in the Pashalic of Tripoli. Some of the chiefs pay in part the expenses of their men, but the Patriarch supplies the principal part of the funds required for the Mountaineers. Nassli Haddain, his Agent and Commissary on this occasion, gives "teskérés," or receipts to the sellers, which he pays afterwards. It is confidently asserted, that the large sum of money, about 14,000*l.*, which was sent from France and Austria for the relief of the distressed Maronites, who had suf-



ferred in the rising of last year, and for the repair of convents, has furnished the source from which the Patriarch pays the large demand of these armed bodies. The example and exhortation of his eminence and of his clergy, render this war a religious, as well as, a civil one.

In Shooyfaat, there are 700 men under the Emir Ahmet Raslan.

In Aylût, there are 400 under Sheik Hussein Talhook.

In Betater, there are 500.

In Deir-el-Kammar, there are 500 under Nasif Bey and Sheik Hamar Abechural.

In Shoof, under Sheik Said Djinblat and Sheik Hootoor Amad, there are 1200. Ammunition has been supplied to this force from Damascus.

On the 21st, Emir Kais after having burnt some houses at Arahmoun moved southwards, burnt more houses and stationed himself in Abbaye, where he burnt the Druse houses and two of the Churches, watching Deir-el-Kammar, the relief of which has been the chief object of the Maronites.

On the 22nd instant one of the Talhooks set fire to Kfar Sheima, and several houses and small silk manufactories in that neighbourhood, and then retired unmolested by Emir Melkem and his numerous force. The Convent of San Antonio Rehaifé was plundered the day of the attack on Shooyfaat by the Maronites.

On the 23rd, the news arrived of the burning of the Christian village of Sagbin, at the foot of the Djebel Sheik, by Sheik Said Djinblat; 200 of its inhabitants were inhumanly killed.

On the 24th instant, I received intelligence of several encounters in the Shoof district, between Sheik Said and Haabbar and the Christians under Sheik Aberamra, in which the Christians state that they gained considerable advantages, driving the Druses back to Maabon, two hours from Djenin.

On the 25th instant the Druses made another descent, and set a number of houses on fire close to Baabda, four miles from the head-quarters of the Druses; they were however taken in flank, by the arrival of a reinforcement of 300 men from Iz-zanwee, and lost about 40 men: four of their heads were sent to Beyrout, and hung up as trophies in the mulberry gardens. The Christians have not yet ventured to attack Deir-el-Kammar, nor do I think they will. Amongst the Christians, Abusumra is the only person who has shown talent. Amongst the Druses, Nasif Bey, Emir Raslan, and Hootoor Amad have displayed considerable military qualifications. Yesterday and to-day affairs have assumed rather a more pacific appearance than before, but it is impossible to speak with any certainty as to the course of events. The conduct of the Turkish authorities makes matters still more uncertain.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 57.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, October 31, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that yesterday, the 30th instant, Reshid Pasha, Governor of Acre, who is considered clever by the Turks, and has been sent for by the Seraskier and Defterdar to endeavour to settle affairs in Lebanon, came to me. His Excellency stated that he wished to consult with me on the present events in the mountains, that he attributed the attack of the Druses on Deir-el-Kammar and all the subsequent occurrences to the conduct of the Emir Beshir, for not having followed his, Rechid Pasha's, suggestion of making the Emir Haidar, a Maronite, Raikin, or Lieutenant to the Emir Beshir, and giving the same authority to the Druse Sheik Naaman Djinblat over the Druses; that this arrangement had been agreed upon at the time of the meeting of Ainoob, but that his Highness had never fulfilled it, but instead of doing so, had appointed various members of his family to petty and useless offices: Rechid Pasha added, that he was certain that the execution of the above arrangement was the only mode of quieting the country, for that Sheik Naaman was all powerful with the Druses, of which he was the hereditary royal family, his family having always exercised direct sovereignty over the Druses till his father's

life was taken by the present Ex-Emir Beshir. With respect to the Emir Haidar, Reshid Pasha observed that he had nearly as much influence over the Maronites as Sheik Naaman had over the Druses, that he was universally respected, and had much influence with the Patriarch, but that he was ruined in fortune. I replied that I was cognizant of the contemplated appointment of the Emir Haidar, because in June, when the Mountain was very much agitated by the proposed system of taxation, Mr. Moore and myself, knowing the great influence which was justly enjoyed by the Emir Haidar, and for the sake of ensuring the aid of that influence to the Porte, recommended his appointment as Lieutenant of the Mountain to the Seraskier, who had approved of it, and had promised to recommend its being carried into effect at Constantinople. I knew that we had since heard that difficulties had arisen on the part of the Emir Beshir as to the salary of the Emir Haidar. I added that I had been informed that the Emir Beshir had intended to give a similar appointment to Sheik Naaman, and that I thought that, corresponding as it did with that of the Emir Haidar, it appeared to me to be a judicious one, but that neither Mr. Moore nor myself had any thing whatever to do with the arrangement as to Sheik Naaman. If your Lordship is pleased to refer to my despatch of the 22nd of June, you will find it contains an account of Mr. Moore's and my proceedings with regard to the Emir Haidar.

When I again mentioned that the march of Turkish troops to Deir-el-Kammar appeared to me to afford the best chance of restoring peace and order, Reshid Pasha said that if the Sultan's troops went into the Mountain, they would come into collision with one or other of the contending parties. His Excellency stated that provisions should immediately be sent to Deir-el-Kammar, and last evening thirty mule-loads went off.

Reshid Pasha informed me that the Patriarch supplies the funds for the subsistence of the Maronite force from the sums subscribed by Austria and France for charitable purposes, and that his Eminence pays each man a piastre a-day; and his Excellency remarked the consternation which would be felt by the Austrian Government when they learnt that they had been thus involuntarily supporting a civil war.

I told Reshid Pasha that Emir Haidar, for whom he had sent from the Maronite camp at Baabda, wished to see me, but that I would go to him, or not go to him, as he wished; he said, "Pray go to him, and calm him, for he is like a mad ogre."

The Emir Haidar said that the Emir Melkem wished that provisions should be sent to the Emir Beshir and the inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar, and Turkish troops should be marched there; or that they, the Christians, should do so, and succour the Emir; but the Turkish authorities will not send troops to the Mountain.

Reshid Pasha told me that Mehemet Ali had given one thousand purses (five thousand pounds) to the four Druse Sheiks, Naaman, Mahmoud, Nasif, Hootoor, Beys.

No. 58.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, October 31, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that accounts arrived yesterday that the Druses had burnt Debbia, a large village, and another one of the same size, near Sidon. The inhabitants, after making a long resistance, retired.

The late unfortunate events have brought to light, and confirmed, certain facts and opinions, which are important as bearing on Syrian politics.

1. That the Turkish Government in this country are unable to preserve the public peace, although their supineness on the present occasion may be attributed to a want of will to do so.

2. That the influence and power of the Maronite Patriarch, as exercised by his Eminence, is neither legitimate nor beneficial to his country.

3. That Mehemet Ali, and Nejib Pasha, have promoted disorders in this country. The result of their efforts is similar, but I have no positive proof that

they act conjointly, although their lengthened connexion with each other is a circumstance not to be lost sight of.

4. That there is an attempt to revive Mahometan fanaticism.

5. That the Druses have justified the opinion which has been entertained of them, as to military qualifications, and of their superiority over the Maronites in this respect; a fact which I have had the honour to state in my different despatches. In the encounter on the 19th instant, which now appears to have been an attempt of the Maronites first to take Shoofaat, and then force their passage by the Ainan-oob road to Deir-el-Kammar, two hundred Druses drove the Maronites, who had burnt a Helwe, or Druse church, out of Shoofaat, fell upon their main body, near Ris-el-Woorwar, of about 1500 strong, and routed them till it became dark. The relief of the Emir Beshir, and Deir-el-Kammar, which is considered by both parties as the capital of the Mountain, and is the present residence of the Prince of the Lebanon, has been the unceasing and all-engrossing object of the Patriarch and the Maronite leaders and their forces, who feel that if they do not effect their entry into that place, the triumph (for they view each other with even more hostility than two foreign nations in a state of war would do) will rest with the Druses; a feeling the more galling to them, because they are double in numbers, better armed, and have induced the majority of people to believe that they could exterminate them, whereas the Druses have remained, as yet, in security in their own country, since the commencement of hostilities on the 14th instant. The Maronite men of Zahlé, and Deir-el-Kammar, are, however, quite equal to the Druses in courage and perseverance. That people have, it is right to add, been guilty, on several occasions, of barbarous cruelty. The Maronites have retaliated, but they are not so cruel as their adversaries.

6. That the clergy of the Greek or Melkite church, have shewn a regard for order, and preserved a line of conduct consonant with their calling. Their communicants have imitated their example, and striven to remain neuter in very trying circumstances, although they have shewn a leaning towards the Druses, a policy on their part which I ventured to predict in my dispatch of the 22nd of May. About two hundred Greek Melkites came with the Maronite force from the Kesrouan with their priest, but Archbishop Benjamin informs me that he intends to uncanonize him and cut off his beard.

The Greek Catholics, as was generally expected here, sided with the Maronites, so did all the communities who acknowledge the Pope as their spiritual head.

7. That to restore order in Syria, a coercing, or rather a governing power, must be resorted to, which does not exist at present in the country. So great is the disorganization in Syria, and so helpless is the local government, that I fear lest the Porte should look for aid to Mehemet Ali, who is anxiously waiting for the application. His Highness and his officers are intimately acquainted with all the artifices of intrigue, and the revenues of Egypt place at his disposal a sum amply sufficient to give effect to them. His army, even with its defects, is the best Oriental one, and two or three such generals as Soliman Achmet Menekli, and Koorshid Pashas, would, combined with the other means at his command, which I have detailed, render the restoration of order in Syria, undertaken by the desire of the legitimate Sovereign, a matter of comparative facility.

I feel assured that the march of affairs, both in this country and at Constantinople, is gradually bringing about this result, unless the European Powers may deem fit to interfere.

No. 59.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 1, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that I have just learnt that Shibli-el-Arian called together a few days back the Maronite clergy and leading people of Hasbeya, and that when they were collected together, he made them prisoners, and caused them to be bound. He then sacked their church, and taking arms from the Christians, who were afraid to resist, lest Shibli-el-Arian should injure the prisoners, whom he kept as hostages, he distributed the arms to the Druse inhabitants. When he was asked by whose order he committed these

acts, he answered, "By the order of Nejib Pasha." Shibli-el-Arian is the creature of his Excellency, and is a leader of irregular cavalry under his orders.

The Druses, joined in many instances by Turks, have gained further successes, and the Christians appear to be dispirited. The connexion of the Mahometan interest with the Druses, becomes daily more evident.

The Christian leaders from their camp at Baabda, have sent a peremptory order to the Emir Haidar, who had been called to Beyrout by the Turkish authorities for the purpose of concerting with him the means of putting an end to the unhappy differences now existing, to return to them, to consult on matters of great importance. They appear to have relinquished all idea of peace, and yet they have not the resolution to attack the Druses, which perhaps increases their bitterness.

The Christians, and especially those of Deir-el-Kammar, will not consent to the Emir Beshir's leaving that town, which they say is his capital. They state that they would prefer that he should leave his bones there than do so, and that if his Highness were so far to forget his duty as to attempt it, that they would make a last desperate attack on the Druses, and overthrow them, or perish.

In this state of affairs, when the armies of the contending parties, for armies they almost may be called, are close to each other, and when their intense animosity is daily aggravated by the commission of fresh outrages, the Turks appear more determined than ever, to observe what they call "a strict neutrality."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 60.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, November 8, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that this day Father Arsenius, one of the two Christian Judges of Mount Lebanon, and Vicar of Baabda, and Father Narcissus, Definitore of the Armenian Convent of Beit Hashban, near Gazir, gave me a letter, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship, from the Maronite Patriarch, whose name and conduct I have so often had the honour to mention; these gentlemen brought also a similar letter for Mr. Werry, to whom I introduced them.

Father Arsenius informed me, that his Eminence had requested his companion and himself to detail to me the present state of affairs, and he then made a statement of them and of the feeling of the Patriarch; at the close of it, I asked Father Arsenius, to have the goodness to put down in writing, the substance of his communication, which he did, signing and sealing it. I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translation of the same.

Father Arsenius and Narcissus, stated, that the Patriarch had given them similar letters for the Russian and French Consuls. I am quite aware of the character of the Patriarch, and I am not misled by his professions, although they are nearly the same, but not so strong, as those which he has always made to me personally; but, I cannot forget that in April, May, and June last, his Eminence excited disaffection amongst the Maronites, over whom he has such vast influence, against their legitimate masters, the Turks, on the subject of taxation; that when even the authorities, in consequence of the representations of Mr. Moore and myself, and afterwards of an order from the Sublime Porte, evinced a conciliatory spirit, and their anxiety to meet the wishes of the Mountaineers, his Eminence, regardless of his profession, still kept alive agitation and discontent amongst his inflammable and ignorant countrymen, misleading them as to the extent of their grievances; and, giving them false and exaggerated ideas of their strength and importance, he created a hostile feeling between the Maronites and the Government of the Sultan, an unjustifiable mode of proceeding, which the Turks have not forgotten, and which they now resent, by withholding from the Maronites, in their unsuccessful struggle with the Druses, assistance which might have prevented the downfall of their influence, and saved them from calamities, of which the termination is not as yet visible; he has besides increased the animosities existing betwixt his co-religionists and the Druses.

The Maronites are a versatile people, and led by their priests and their Sheiks; the former are more ignorant and fanatical than any clergy I ever saw, although not, I believe, a corrupt one. Secluded in their convents and mountains, they have no intercourse with the world, and believe, and teach those under their charge to believe, that the professors of their religion can alone be saved. The Sheiks, with not many exceptions, are grasping and corrupt.

The meeting of Ainoob addressed a petition to the Sublime Porte, which was both factious and insolent. My previous despatches, and especially the conversation with the Emir Haidar, reported in that of the 22nd of June, a personal friend of the Patriarch, will prove the culpability of his conduct. Mr. Wood, who is well acquainted with the Maronites, says, in a letter to me of the 11th of November, "the unwarrantable conduct of the Maronites, and of their clergy and Patriarch, has indisposed the Turks towards them."

At the meeting of Beyrout, which was convoked on the arrival of Mr. Wood with concessions as to the taxes from the Porte, Bishop Tubia again opposed, on the part of the Patriarch, the proposals made by that gentleman; and the great obstacle to the settlement of the question is the Patriarch, who has continued up to the last his opposition, having caused secret meetings to be held, and emissaries to be sent round the country, who were charged to call on the people not to agree to the proposals of the Porte made through Mr. Wood. The objections of his Eminence are stated in my despatch of the 23rd September, and Father Arsenius gave me yesterday a remarkable proof of the views of the Patriarch. He was anxious to convince me that his Eminence had endeavoured to prevent hostilities between the Druses and the Christians. He said, "his Eminence was most anxious that the Druses and the Christians should be united against the Turks for many reasons, but particularly on account of the taxation." I have always been quite aware of this, as well as that he was determined, when the taxation was settled, to adopt measures of extreme rigour against the Druses.

It is clear, then, that the Maronite party, with arms in their hands, and in possession of some of the strongest country in Lebanon, and guided as it was by the Patriarch and clergy, was calculated to cause great uneasiness to the Porte; and led the Porte, too weak to attack the Maronites, single-handed, to resort to the old Turkish and Egyptian policy of "divide et impera," and subduing the Maronites by Druses, or Druses by Maronites, as the case might be. In the present instance, the anti-Christian feeling of Nejib Pasha, and the reaction in favour of Mahometanism, in combination with the irritating and factious conduct of the Maronite people, led the Turks to avail themselves of the Druses as their instruments to subdue the Maronites.

Abstractedly, and speaking politically, the diminution of the Maronite interest, which was of a nature incompatible with the welfare of the country, is beneficial, but the means by which it was accomplished must for ever be reprobated; and the danger lest the attack which has been made on that sect of Christians should be directed against all of them in this country, is a consideration of the deepest moment, and of the most serious importance.

I think that Her Majesty's servants in this country cannot err in doing their utmost to avert such a catastrophe.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

*The Maronite Patriarch to Colonel Rose.*

(Translation.)

November 7, 1841.

To the Glorious and of Reverence Colonel Rose, British Consul-General, may God preserve him.

AFTER expressing to you the desire of seeing you, and that we long to see your face in every good health, we state that it became necessary to despatch our two sons, the Priest Narcissus and Priest Arsenius the Fakhoul, and we made them understand what they have to report to you in full length, and when they report to you we hope you will pay them good attention, and favour us with your letters, and may God preserve you.

The humble,  
(Signed) YOOSUF.

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## Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

*Memorandum of Message of the Maronite Patriarch to Colonel Rose, written by Father Arsenius.*

(Translation.)

November 8, 1841.

I, THE Undersigned, have come to Beyrout commissioned by his Holiness our Lord Yoosuf Habesh, the Patriarch, to see his Excellency (Colonel) Rose, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, and Mr. Werry, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Beyrout, and to bring to each of them a letter from his Holiness.

I am instructed by his Holiness to report the present hostilities between the Christians and Druses of the Mountain.

My message is to explain the outrage and aggressions of the Druses against Deir-el-Kammar. The Druses have assaulted the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar, as well as the Emir Beshir, the Governor of the Mountain under the Sublime Porte; the Druses having collected secretly assaulted Deir-el-Kammar from all quarters at one hour, they were collected with their Sheiks from all parts from the tops of the mountain to the sea-side; consequently Deir-el-Kammar sustained very great damage, for they plundered it and burnt one-third of it. This being the case, the Christians of some places have risen to protect the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar, the Druses have also risen to accomplish their views, that is to say, to weaken the Christians, to change the present above-mentioned Governor, and to place a Druse Governor in his stead.

The Christians and the Druses have fought against each other in some places in the Mountain; at the same time an order was issued by the Seraskier, his Excellency Selim Pasha the Magnificent, ordering both parties to cease fighting, and that each of them should go home. The Christians have obeyed the high orders, but the Druses have not; but after the above orders were given, they have come forward to fight, and are murdering and burning, and they have continued so doing till now, and there is none to prevent them from pillaging, burning, and plundering. It seems as if this said Seraskier Pasha were willing that the Druses should do so, for he does not prevent them, nor does he compel them to reimburse the Christians for their losses, particularly as his troops, the Hawara, who are placed near Beyrout, are plundering and even murdering the Christians of both sexes; either his Highness cannot prevent them or will not compel them to act as above mentioned; but it appears that the person who has given this power to the Druses is Nejib Pasha of Damascus, because Shibli-el-Arian, the Druse, is one of the principal officers of his troops, and in actual service. The said Arian is now come with his men to Zahlé, and is fighting against Zahlé, which is wholly inhabited by Christians; moreover, many of the Druses of the mountains are gone to his help; all this has happened after the orders of the Seraskier were given to cease fighting; and now the Druses are endeavouring to collect the arms of the Christians who are residing among them, and those who are in their neighbourhood, who are few in number, and many of them are either in their service or in their districts, while these arms are the gifts of the Sublime Porte and the Christians. Still more even, after the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar had given up their arms to the Druse chiefs, the said chiefs have ordered that their houses should be plundered, themselves insulted and some even killed; this has been reported to us. They have also taken the arms of Djenin and other places, in short, just as if they were a Government, like the rest of Governments. This being the case, and knowing very well the zeal of your mighty Government, and feeling the favours conferred on us last year, and the British Government continuing to manifest its zeal on all occasions, we find it necessary now to take refuge therein, and to explain what has happened through our deputy the writer of this letter. We therefore beg you to adopt such strong measures with his Highness the Seraskier, first, to prevent the Druses from fighting, plundering, and burning; secondly, to compel the Druses to reimburse the Christians for all their losses, and to restore all that they have plundered, and also to give back the arms taken from the Christians, and to restore what has been abstracted from the convents, for they (Druses) are the aggressors; thirdly, that he should prevent his irregular troops, the Hawara, from plundering and murdering, and compel them to give up what they have plundered from the churches about Beyrout, and it his Highness professes that



he is unable to do it, then let us know your advice in this business ; for, on the one hand, we do not wish to disobey the orders of the Sublime Porte, and are unwilling to go out of our allegiance to it, even if all our body were to perish ; but, on the other hand, if no measures be adopted to prevent the Druses from pursuing their present course, then, although we are sick in bed, we will rise in person before all the Christians, and they will carry us on a chair, and we will carry in our hands the standard of the Holy Cross, and we will raise all the Christians of the mountains, men and boys, march them against the Druses and prevent their aggressions against the Christians by murdering, plundering, and burning ; we shall beat them terribly, and we will not come home until we have destroyed all of them, or till they exterminate us ; this we will do in order to protect Christianity, and to preserve the lives of the Christians, their property, and their families. We are also sending letters by the bearer our trustee, to the rest of the Consuls with verbal communications, but as we are all sure of the bounty of your Government to this mountain and its Christian inhabitants in particular, and as we know the splendour of her activity, we very particularly place our confidence in the zeal of your powerful and magnificent Government ; we beg you to let us know your good opinion and to cure this disease without delay.

(L.S.)

(Signed)

FATHER ARSENIUS EL FAKHOUL.

No. 61.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, November 10, 1841.*

ON the 4th instant, M. Basili, M. Bourrée, the Austrian and Prussian Vice-Consuls, Mr. Werry and myself, went, by agreement, with Reshid Pasha to the Defterdar's, to meet the Seraskier. We proposed that his Excellency should issue a proclamation declaratory of the views and intentions of the Government in the present state of affairs, and proceed himself to the Mountain. As his Excellency would not go with a force unless he disarmed all the villages as he went along, as well as all the inhabitants,—a perilous mode of proceeding, which would certainly have roused the Druses, much more efficient fighting men than the Turkish soldiers, and in possession of a most difficult country, against the Turkish Government,—the idea of going up to the Mountain alone, did not appear to be agreeable to his Excellency. He begged to consult the Defterdar on the proposition in private. Mr. Werry observed, that it was useless to take measures of pacification in Beyrout, if Shibli-el-Arian, who had openly sided with the Druses, were still retained in the Pasha's service, and if ammunition were sent to the Druses.

On the 5th instant we again went to the Seraskier. It was agreed that his Excellency should invite us to go to Shoofaat the next day, to which place he would also invite the Druse chiefs, and assist him in establishing peace between the hostile parties. I have the honour to inclose a copy of his Excellency's letter.

On the 6th, the Seraskier, Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and myself, proceeded to Shoofaat, where we met the Druse chiefs, Emin Ahmet, Emir Mahomed Raslan, Hootoor Bey, Said Bey, Sheik Ishmael's brother, a handsome boy of about seventeen, who has shown courage and skill in the command of his brother's adherents, consisting of about fifteen hundred or two thousand men, Youssuf Abd-el-Melek, &c., &c. Ostensibly, the Druses were not unreasonable, nor did they appear elated with their successes, nor the rout which they occasioned the day before to the Christian force, which had made its last efforts on the town of Shoofaat, where we were assembled. A proposal was made by the Kadi, that the Druses should be ruled by a brother of the Emir Said-el-Deen, and it was rejected.

It was finally settled,—

1. That the Druses would receive any officer, whom the Seraskier might appoint temporarily to command in the Mountain.

2. That peace should take place between the Maronites and the Druses, the chiefs of the latter agreeing to send their force to their homes.

3. That a Turkish officer, Galeb Bey, should be sent to Zahlé that day, another to Deir-el-Kammar, and others to such places as must require their presence, with orders to use their utmost endeavours to put an end to hostilities.



Inclosure in No. 61.

*Selim Pasha to Colonel Rose.*

(Translation.)

A.C.

November 5, 1841.

YOUR friendship is already aware of the disturbance that is existing in the Mountains, and we, please God the most high, are determined to go to-morrow, Saturday, to Shooyfaat, to quiet and prevent these differences, and according to your perfect sincerity, friendship, and union, and love to our Government, we hope your friendship also will accompany and co-operate with us, and we ask your activity.

(Signed) SELIM PASHA.

No. 62.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

(Extract.)

Beyrout, November 11, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that on the 7th instant, I received a visit from the Emir Beshir.

His Excellency gave me an account of the circumstances connected with the late events, and complained bitterly of the conduct of the Turkish authorities throughout those proceedings; that he had repeatedly made application for succour of men and ammunition, but without success; and he directly accused the Turkish authorities of collusion with the Druses.

The Emir Beshir expresses his regret that he had ever quitted private life, and accepted the offer of Her Majesty's servants to become Emir Beshir, for, added his Excellency, "before my elevation, I was rich and happy, but during the year that I have been Prince of the Mountain, I have received no salary, but I have incurred great expenses, which were rendered necessary by my position. I am ill looked upon by the Turks, and my life has been menaced by my subjects at different times, and I have just now saved it with difficulty, after having been besieged upwards of a fortnight. My palace at Baabda is burnt and plundered, and the Serai at Deir-el-Kammar, where I left considerable property, has also been sacked, and I have lost nearly half a million of piastres." He expressed his esteem for, and his confidence in, the British Government, and said, that as in compliance with their wish he had become Prince of the Mountain, he expressed the hope that they would be pleased to obtain for him, from the Porte, an indemnification for his losses. He added, that he would be entirely guided by my advice.

I replied, that I would repeat his wishes to Her Majesty's Government, who, I knew, entertained feelings of esteem for his Highness; and I did my best to console him in his misfortunes.

I advised him to make a statement of his case to the Porte, through his Kapou Kiaja, sending a copy of it to the Seraskier and Defterdar, which is the legitimate mode of proceeding.

I could not consistently with my sense of duty advise his Highness to demand the active continuation of his power as Emir Beshir, because I knew that his inefficiency had contributed to bring about the present state of affairs, and that his taking a prominent part would prolong it, because he has no real party, but many enemies.

On the other hand, I did not think that Her Majesty's Government would have approved my advising him to resign, a step which he would have taken, I have reason to believe, had I advised him so to do; although I have no doubt that it is a main object with the Turkish authorities, to force him to give up his power; for it would have increased the confusion now existing by calling forth numerous competitors for his high office, besides, in all probability, the return from Constantinople of the ex-Emir Beshir, whom Her Majesty's Government, in conjunction with the Sublime Porte, thought proper to remove last year. I therefore thought it prudent to advise his Highness to remain for the

present quietly in Beyrout, to which place he had been called by the Turkish authorities.

I have the honour to request, with the utmost respect, that your Lordship will inform me what steps it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government, that I should take with respect to his Highness.

I know of no individual in this country, who unites the qualities requisite for the office of a Prince of Mount Lebanon. If he is a Maronite, the Druses will not bear his rule, and if he is a Druse, he will not be tolerated by the Maronites, and it would not be desirable that a Mahometan Prince should rule over a country which is the strong-hold of Christianity in the East. Amongst the other sects, there is no person of sufficient rank and station to hold the office; and among the Greek Antiochians, if there were, he would be liable to the same objection as a Druse or a Maronite.

Her Majesty's Government removed the Ex-Emir Beshir last year: his name is proverbial for his tyranny and his exactions. In one family near here, the Princes of Shehab, of Haddet, and whom I have seen, he deprived one of its members of both his eyes, and two others, of one eye each.

His son, the Emir Emin, of whom I had the honour to speak favourably in my despatch of the 3rd of May, is the person who unites the most suffrages in his favour, and perhaps deservedly so, but he is a Maronite. The Druses believe that his father was as much Druse as Maronite, an opinion which he endeavoured to keep up, and which he in a manner confirmed, for although he conformed to the Maronites' rite, he bought a wife, and forbade that bells should be put up in the Christian churches, lest they should disturb the call to prayers from the minarets of the mosques.

I do not know whether the Emir Emin has the latitudinarian views of his father.

Mehemet Ali may have a view of obtaining the government of Syria for his son, Said Pasha.

I think that the payment of the losses sustained by the Emir Beshir, by the late events, and of his salary, or a part of it, would satisfy his Highness.

No. 63.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 19, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that the results which were anticipated from the extraordinary and suspicious conduct of the Turkish authorities, after the attack of the Druses on Deir-el-Kammar, and the systematic and energetic preparations made by that people and the Maronites to carry on hostilities, have come to pass. The whole of the Lebanon south of Beyrout, in which there is a mixed population of Druses and Maronites, and Zahlé, including that town, have become the theatre of a civil war; and if any part of it has ceased to be so, it is merely because the Maronites, entirely subdued by the Druses, are incapable of further resistance. In the Meten, where the population is principally Druse and Greek Antiochian, the tranquillity has scarcely been disturbed, these two sects agreeing together, as I have frequently had the honour to state in my despatches.

In the rest of the Lebanon, that is, to the north of Beyrout, or rather of the Nahr-el-Kelb, the population being almost exclusively Maronite, with a small mixture of Druses and Greek Catholics, the war, till the 7th instant, was merely confined to hostile preparations. The isolated houses of the Druses were burnt; and the Greek Catholics generally, when they can do so, side with their co-religionists, the Maronites.

I regret very much to say, that the Turkish authorities have taken no step which could induce the belief that they were desirous of profiting by the cessation of hostilities (which was effected by the intervention of Ayoub Pasha and myself), to avert the calamities of a civil war. On the contrary, the precautionary measures which they did take were so feeble, so ill-judged, and so little adapted to the purpose, that they produced the conviction in the minds of all parties, that they were merely intended to be a blind, and to save appearances; and circum-

tantial evidence of every day's occurrence has convinced the most sceptical, that, from notions of policy, or from revengeful feelings towards the Maronites, who certainly have shown a spirit of factious and insolent opposition to the Turkish authorities almost from the commencement of their rule in this country, the government was determined not to check the successful career of the Druses, which bids fair to render harmless the disaffection and boasted strength of the Maronites.

In confirmation of what I say, I have the honour to state, that the Seraskier and Defterdar despatched Fataha, the Governor of Beyrout, and the Kadi, both of whom are Mussulmans, and personally obnoxious to the Christians on account of their intolerance and dislike to them, to the camp of the Maronites, near Baabda, and to the Druses, to desire them to return to their homes, and to make their causes of complaint or dissension known to them. This message was delivered to two factions, whose mutual hatred of each other is proverbial, in number about ten thousand men,—the one flushed with victory, the other, smarting under defeat,—one of whom had been enjoined from the altar, on pain of excommunication, to succour their injured brethren, and exterminate their oppressors,—and the other, the Druses, who believed that they were struggling for their existence, their country, and their rights. These two men, such as I have described them, were sent with a simple message, to desire two parties thus influenced to cease hostilities, and retire quietly to their homes. In proof of the nature of the exhortations given to the Christians by their clergy, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translation of a letter from Bishop Basilios, of Zahlé, to his flock.

The Druses, influenced by the understanding which exists between them and the Turkish authorities, and knowing, besides, that the two emissaries were personally well disposed towards them and their cause, received them well, and made professions of their loyalty to the Sultan, and willingness to obey his officers; but the Christians, who judged from the selection of two such persons, that the Turkish authorities could not really wish for the settlement of their differences on terms favourable to themselves, gave them any thing but a favourable reception; and the Governor and the Kadi returned to Beyrout with the news, that the Druses had received the orders of the Seraskier with submission, and assurances of obedience; but that the Christians had shown a bad spirit, so much so as to threaten their lives. I can easily believe this to be true, for, independently of the mistrust which the Maronites entertained towards these two persons, they were at that time fully persuaded that the predictions of their clergy would be fulfilled, that they could not only relieve Deir-el-Kammar, but that they could annihilate their adversaries.

On the 23rd instant, the Seraskier sent twelve hundred men in observation to an encampment two miles from Beyrout, a measure which brought still more clearly to light the determination of the Turkish authorities to let the civil war take its course. These troops had no orders, nor did they make the slightest attempt to prevent one party from attacking the other; thus hostile rencounters took place between the Druses and Maronites almost within the outposts of the Turkish camp, and houses and villages were burnt and plundered, and amongst them the palace of the Emir Beshir, within sight of the protectors of the laws, and the guardians of the peace; not even a detachment of the Turkish troops was sent to put out the flames after the Druses had retired, except indeed a small detachment of Turkish irregular cavalry, Hawara, whose conduct on that occasion I shall have the honour to describe hereafter.

I have the honour now to submit to your Lordship, facts which prove the insincerity of the wish of the Turkish authorities to cause a cessation of hostilities.

1. As if to nullify the peaceful object of the mission of the Governor and the Kadi, the Seraskier sent the day preceding their departure, five camel-loads of ammunition to the head-quarters of the Maronite forces, and having thus supplied them with the means of carrying on the war, his Excellency the next day enjoined them to make peace with their adversaries. On the other hand, Shibli-el-Arian, the commander of four hundred irregular cavalry, under the immediate orders of Nejib Pasha of Damascus, having previously disarmed the Christians of Hasbeya and Rasheya, supplied five barrels of gunpowder to the Druses of Hasbeya, and consigned forty-three more to an influential Druse of that town.

2. Two or three days after the mission of the Governor and the Kadi, the Seraskier and Defterdar entered into a negotiation with the Maronites, through their Commander-in-chief, the Emir Melkem, by the terms of which, the Seraskier bound himself to march against the Druses, provided the Maronites co-operated with him with one or two thousand men, as they might be required, and further supplied him with one hundred and fifty camels and beasts of burthen for the transport of his artillery and baggage. The negotiation was broken off, but the beasts of burthen which had been supplied, were, and are still, not returned.

3. Ayoub Pasha, who on the 19th of October had informed me that his presence would be absolutely necessary for some time at Deir-el-Kammar for the preservation of peace, and that the state of affairs required imperatively the presence of a large body of troops, suddenly returned on the 21st, three days afterwards, to Beyrout, leaving the protection of the Christians, and of the Prince of the Lebanon, the destruction of whom had been the object of the determined attack of the Druses, to the care of one Turkish officer, Selim Bey Fataha, the Governor of Beyrout, and his escort, about twenty horsemen; nor were any troops sent to Deir-el-Kammar, although the Prince made frequent and urgent application for them, applications which were seconded by the advice of Ayoub Pasha and myself, eye-witnesses of the state of affairs in that town. The consequences of such neglect of the Prince, the representative of the Sultan, were what had been foreseen; his Highness and the Christians were soon without food, their adversaries having prevented the entry of provisions into the town; and he at last sent a message to the Seraskier in Beyrout, that although his authority was not to be protected, he trusted that he and the Christians should not be reduced to eat horse-flesh. On this, in consequence of two strenuous applications from myself, thirty mules with food were sent off to Deir-el-Kammar, but they were not allowed to enter the town. On the 2nd and 3rd Instant, the Druses who had subdued Djenin, Arkoob, and other places, assembled round Deir-el-Kammar in great numbers, and intimated to the Christians that they must surrender their arms. The Emir Beshir having now become aware that the authorities and the Druses were determined to make him leave Deir-el-Kammar, resolved to do so, and on the 4th instant, the Christians, Greek Catholics, and Maronites, fully convinced that their government was determined to send them no succour, and having scarcely any ammunition, and but little food, agreed to conditions drawn up by the Governor of Beyrout, in which the Prince promised to leave Deir-el-Kammar on the 5th instant, and the Christians to surrender their arms, the Druses guaranteeing them their personal safety and their property. During the night of the 4th instant, and the following day, the Christians gave up their arms, amounting to about a thousand muskets, and a thousand sets of side-arms, that is, pistols, swords, and daggers, and on the morning of the 5th instant, the Emir Beshir left the Serai accompanied by the Governor of Beyrout, Selim Bey, and his mounted attendants. Immediately on leaving the palace gate, the Prince and his party were assailed by a numerous mob of Druses, who struck and robbed him. His sword and dagger were taken from him with such violence as to wound his hands, and he was deprived of his turban and the greater part of his dress; his Secretary, literally stripped of everything, was forced to borrow a clouk from Fataha, and the party despoiled of clothes, horses, and money, arrived on foot at Beyrout, with the exception of the Prince, who retained his horse. Even Selim Bey was struck and robbed of his watch, purse, and sword, which the Druses returned to him, saying that it was worth nothing. The Prince informed me, that one man levelled his piece at him, but it missed fire. When the state of exasperation is considered, it is a matter of surprise that his Highness and his party were not put to death. As the Prince entered Beyrout, he saw on his right, his palace, and the principal houses in Baabda and Haddet in flames, and his subjects, the Maronites, retreating in the greatest disorder along the front of the Turkish camp of regular troops, which never got under arms, and the Turkish irregular cavalry, which had been sent out to restore order, wounding and plundering the unfortunate inhabitants who had escaped from the scene of destruction; and so reckless were these troops, that whilst part of them joined with the Druses in pursuit of the Maronites, killing and plundering them, the remainder robbed the women who were flying into Beyrout, of their dress and money, which the Druses in pity had not deprived them of; they even took the horns which the women in this

country wear upon their heads, and which are considered by these people as sacred. So keenly was this misconduct felt, that the Maronites declared, "that for the future they would rather be plundered by the Druses, than assisted by the Turks." A day or two afterwards Reshid Pasha informed me that he had sent five officers and fifty regular troops to Baabda to prevent further disorder, but they never arrived there.

On his arrival in Beyrout, the Emir Beshir waited on the Turkish authorities, when, he informs me, the Defterdar, with the sarcasm which has marked the intercourse of the Turkish authorities with the Maronites, observed to him, "that his Highness was like a tree which had lost its leaves, but which would shortly bud again with increased vigour."

4. From the 22nd to the 31st of October, the districts of Djenin and Arkoob were the scene of sanguinary combats between the Druses, under Sheik Said Djinblat and Hoottoor Amad, and Maronites, under Abusumra; but, notwithstanding the urgent representations of the Consuls, of Captain Pring, of Her Majesty's ship "Thunderer," and myself, both verbally and by writing, we could not prevail on the Seraskier to send even a Turkish officer to the disturbed districts, to make an effort to restore order, or at least to mitigate the misery of civil war. His Excellency promised to do so, but it was never done. I have the honour to inclose a copy of one of these communications to your Lordship. Day after day the Seraskier and Defterdar were informed that houses, villages, and convents, were sacked and burnt, and that the destitute inhabitants were wandering into Sidon and Beyrout, without food, clothes, or shelter. One day, the 31st ultimo, thirty-five friars alone entered Beyrout, flying from the destruction which had just overtaken their convent, Mashmushe, which the Druses had burnt the day before. A day or two afterwards, the monks of two other convents, burnt near Rasheya, arrived; but the legitimate authority never performed from the 22nd of October to the 5th of November a single function of a government. I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of an affecting petition from the inhabitants of the district of Djenin, to the Emir Melkem, Commander-in-chief of the Maronite force. It is a curious fact, that the unfortunate writers of it do not, in their utter distress, which would have made them cling to any hope, however remote, even take into consideration the chance of assistance from the Turkish authorities; they do not even allude to it. I frequently have had the honour to represent to your Lordship, that there are scarcely traces of a government in this country; it is not to be wondered at, then, that the idea of succour from those who in other countries are responsible for the lives and properties of the persons committed to their charge, should never have crossed the minds of the sufferers by civil war in the districts of Djenin and Arkoob.

5. At the request of M. Basili, the Seraskier wrote to Shibli-el-Arian to desist from his attack on the Christian town, Zahlé. M. Basili tells me that this chief informed the Seraskier that he could not comply with his request, as the Zahlé men had attacked him, and, he added, "I shall do my best to take Zahlé, and shall kill as many of its inhabitants as I can, which I know will be pleasing to your Excellency." It is true that Nejib Pasha has latterly disavowed Shibli-el-Arian, but he did not do so till his (Shibli-el-Arian's) conduct in attacking Zahlé (he being a paid officer of the Sultan's) compelled him to take this step. His misconduct in disarming the Christians of Hasbeya and Rasheya did not induce his Excellency to withdraw his protection from him.

6. When the Consuls and myself were at Shoofaat, to which place we had gone at the invitation of the Seraskier, as I have the honour to state to your Lordship in my despatch of the 10th of November, the Kadi brought to the Seraskier a proposal from the Druse chiefs, that they, the Druses, should be ruled by a Mahometan prince, the brother of the Emir Said-el-Deen. Reshid Pasha mentioned it to us in a manner which shewed, that as far as he was concerned, he would not have rejected the proposal, which, of course, we did not approve, as, independently of other reasons, we had no right whatever to deal with such matters.

7. In consequence of the repeated suggestions which had been made to the Seraskier since the 19th of October, that his own presence, or at least that of Turkish officers, would be productive of good in the disturbed districts, particularly in Zahlé, and the devoted town of Deir-el-Kammar, which, since the departure of the Emir Beshir, had been left to the mercy of the Druses, he at last agreed to follow, in part, those suggestions; but as usual, his selection of persons for this

duty was unfortunate. Galeb Bey was sent to Zahlé, and Selim Bey to Djebel. Against these two officers, at least against the first, there was nothing to be said; but infatuation, or something worse, seems to have prompted the nomination of Fataha, Governor of Beyrout, to be Governor of Deir-el-Kammar, or, as he styles himself, Lieutenant, "Wakeel," of Mount Lebanon, and of Mahomed Aga, the head of the kavasses, or Albanian Police, to be Governor of Meten, a person of the worst possible character, and not considered by the Turks themselves as a gentleman. Fataha, who was sent by the Seraskier to Deir-el-Kammar to protect the Christians, was three days on his road from Beyrout to that town, a distance of twenty-five miles. He went out of his way to sleep at the houses of Sheik Hussein Talhook, and Sheik Youssuf Abd-el-Melek, at Betata, two active and influential Druse Chiefs. Before his departure from Beyrout on the 9th instant, he sent letters to Nasif Bey and Sheik Hamoud, joint Druse Governors of Deir-el-Kammar, the former the leader of the Druse attack on the town. The postman, who had started late from Beyrout, delivered the letters early on the following morning to Sheik Hamoud, who, after reading, sent them to Nasif Bey. This person then came to Sheik Hamoud, who is his relative, and after a short consultation they gave orders to the Druses to fall on and complete the pillage of the Christian quarter of the town, which had commenced after the departure of the Emir Beshir. This they did so effectually that the inhabitants were left destitute of every thing, even clothes, and several of them are stated to have been bastinadoed. It is true that those who were suspected of having money were thrown into prison until they paid a large ransom. The two Druse Governors, both then, and since the arrival of Fataha, have made the Christians who were in possession of their property, which had been taken from them by the Ex-Emir Beshir, and sold or given to those Christian individuals, sell it back to them, Sheik Hamoud and Nasif Bey, who caused law-deeds of sale to be made out. The tardy arrival of Fataha has in no way stopped these proceedings.

On the other hand, Mohamed Aga, who had been sent as temporary Governor of the Meten, desired the Christians at Hamana, in the name of the Sultan, to give up their arms, and on arriving at Faluga, with a Druse Chief and some irregular cavalry, that place having been taken by the Druses, with the exception of the Palace of the Emir Mourad, he summoned its garrison also to give up their arms, assuring them that their persons and property should be respected. They surrendered, when six of the garrison, and two priests who had taken refuge there, were put to death, and the Druses and Turkish irregular cavalry commenced an indiscriminate plunder of the castle and its inmates, taking from the harem their gold ornaments; the representative of the Seraskier and Governor of the province setting the example by stealing a cloak of the Emir.

I shall have the honour to submit to your Lordship a continuation of the events of the intestine war in this country, with further details of the conduct of the Turkish authorities, which is so irreconcilable with the lowest standard of sense or duty, that, although they can hardly be said to have committed themselves by any direct act, yet the instinctive conclusion into which all are forced by the mass of concurring circumstances is, that the whole of their procedure is the result of design, and that the few steps which they have taken for the purpose of averting the course of events, were intended to conceal the support which in secret they were giving to the Druses, with a view to weaken the Maronites. They have now given indications of their wish to disarm them. This policy is unjustifiable; but I shall have the honour to state facts which will prove that they have strong grounds for mistrusting this people, who have not been well-affected subjects to the Sultan.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

*The Catholic Bishop of Zahlé to the Christians of the same place.*

TO our sons and brethren, Sheiks and Christians, inhabitants of the western part of the Bekaa.

After bestowing upon you the blessings, and expressing the great longing to see you in every prosperity, (we state) we have received your letter, and every



thing you have mentioned we have understood. First, we understand your victory over the aggressors, the enemies of the holy faith; that victory is the gift of God most High, by the intercession of his mother. We have exceedingly and extremely praised your activity, but you have been backward in your not burning (the village) of Merepté. The proper mode was to have burnt it. Hereafter take good care, when you obtain a victory, turn not back from burning and destroying to the end. Only we command you, beloved children and honoured brethren, to abstain from touching the females. But everything else, such as burning, murdering, plundering, you can do, and do not spare anything. We know and are aware of your activity. It is unnecessary to say anything more on this subject. Secondly, with respect to the assistance of men from this place, and that is very important,—immediately on receiving your letter, there happened to be present here, our son, and beloved brother, Sheik Abu Ibrahim Shibli-el-Maaloof, who has manifested his laudable zeal, and has willingly offered himself to come to your help. This happened in consequence of your good feelings and tranquillity, for he is capable of assisting more than any other, far above we can describe. Please God, to-morrow or the day after, you will receive from him good support. And you, strengthen your activity and go with him, and no doubt, God, the Omnipotent, will give you the victory over your enemies; and as to powder, you will receive by him more than enough, and without your mentioning for surgeons, we mean to send them. It is our wish that you be anxious for nothing, only let us hear from you always. Strengthen the arms of activity, be watchful upon yourselves and careful, and, please God, hereafter men will be perpetually going to you. Continue the prayers and confessions, for this is a holy war. Come forth and be not afraid from anything! And we are lifting our hands to the Father of light, to be your supporter, and He who hath accompanied “Jubil,” will accompany you. And may his heavenly blessing be with you, and may you be preserved by him in vigour.

(L.S.)

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) BASILIOS.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

*Captain Pring, Colonel Rose, and M. Chassaud to Selim Pasha.*

Excellency,

*Beyrout, October 28, 1841.*

WE, the undersigned, after mature deliberation, feeling convinced that the presence of Ayoub Pasha at Deir-el-Kammar, subsequent to the lamentable occurrences which took place there on the 14th instant, had the effect of preventing a renewal of hostilities between the Maronites and Druses, and that the orders he issued there in the name of the Sultan, were promptly obeyed, and had been fully executed in that place up to the present period, (even in his absence,) deem it our duty most respectfully, though earnestly, to recommend to your Excellency's consideration, the immediate necessity of a similar course being adopted throughout the disturbed districts of Mount Lebanon, in order to prevent in future the dreadful conflagrations and loss of human life, which have lately been desolating the surrounding low country in this neighbourhood, and which continue to be witnessed even within a very short distance of Beyrout; as well as to afford safety and protection on the highways, both for life and property.

We have, &c.  
(Signed) DAN. PRING.  
HUGH ROSE.  
T. CHASSAUD.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 63.

*Appeal from the Inhabitants of Djenin to the Commander of the Maronite Force.*

THE inhabitants of the district of Djenin declare to your Lordship (Signoria) that all men are fully cognizant of the injuries inflicted upon the Christians, particularly the inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar, and those of the district of Karub,



as well as upon ourselves, the massacre of our men and children, the violation of our women, and the plunder of our property. The late proceedings at Hasbeya are also known. Shibli-el-Arian collected all the Druses of that district, as well as those of the Haouran, and, with the addition of a considerable number of Jews and other foreigners, disarmed all the Christians, and resolved to attack the district of Djenin. Thus did they all assemble to act against the Christians, who, nevertheless, prepared for their defence, trusting, first of all in God, and then on your assistance, and that of the Sheiks and Chiefs, to conquer their enemies: but, alas! my Lords, you have abandoned us, in an hour of peril, abasement, and dishonour, leaving your brothers exposed to death, your families to dishonour, and their property to pillage. Now, where is your honour? Where is your energy and your assistance? It is no more! If the people of our Lord are reduced to such a straight, you, gentlemen, as long as you live, the blame will rest on your heads, and you will be accused of having offered no opposition to their being led like sheep to the slaughter.

Have you not heard of the conflagrations, and the misfortunes that have visited various districts, especially that of Deir-el-Kammar, without affording any succour to your co-religionists? Where is the assistance, protection, and energy of the Arabs? Where are the men prepared for war? Where are the defenders of our hearths and our possessions? Why do the Emirs and the Sheiks forget their standing? Why do not the young take up arms, their heads uncovered, and their feet bare, to succour the Christians? If you Emirs and Chiefs do not take these communications into consideration, they will soon be sacrificed beyond retrieval. Where are the defenders of the Christians? Where are the partisans of religion? Where are the Emirs of the family of Shehab? Oh! our Princes and leaders, succour us, leave us not to certain death. Let no time be lost! Let nothing be put off till to-morrow! Time is precious, for the hour of our perdition draws near!

A thousand, and a thousand times, we implore your assistance.

P.S.—At this very moment we have received this order from Said Djinblat, directed to the inhabitants of Djenin, in which he demands our arms; and he is assembling his men to act against us.

#### No. 64.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, November 19, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that, on the 15th instant, Padre Arsenius came to me with a message from the Patriarch for M. Basili and M. Bourrée. His Eminence thanked us for our past exertions, but begged us earnestly to induce the Pasha to prevent further acts of aggression on the part of the Druses. He stated that Mohammed Aga, who had been sent by the Seraskier, on the 9th instant, to restore order in the Meten, had assisted the Druses in their capture of Faluga, and that he with his men had plundered the Christians.

2. That Reshid Pasha had not as yet made any demonstration which led the Druses to suppose that he disapproved their conduct.

3. That Sheik Youssuf and Emir Said should be given up by the Druses.

4. To prevent the attempt of the Mussulmans of Tripoli and of the Mualis to separate the province of Djebail from the Lebanon. Father Arsenius stated that his Eminence had reason to believe, that Selim Pasha had forwarded an application to this effect from those parties.

Padre Arsenius then stated in confidence to me, that his Eminence had received certain information that Nasif Bey and Hootoor Bey had declared that they would use every exertion to seize him and take his life; and he asked for my assistance, in procuring for him, in case of necessity, aid from Her Majesty's ships in embarking from the Convent of Sehl Alma, whither he had gone for security, and which is close to the sea shore. I assured Padre Arsenius that I was certain that Captain Pring would be most happy to give every assistance in placing a person of his Eminence's profession and rank in safety, as well as any others who were in distress or danger.

Padre Arsenius then told me that the Patriarch was most anxious for peace, and that it would promote this desirable object if M. Basili, M. Bourrée, and myself, would write to his Eminence, and offer our services for this purpose.

I found that M. Basili was writing a letter to the Patriarch, on the subject of peace, which he read to me. We agreed that, as the Patriarch was not an official authority, we had better write separate letters. I have the honour to inclose a copy of my communication.

Padre Arsenius informed me that, as he passed the bridge over the Dog River, numbers of the Christian forces, who are assembled there, flocked around him, and begged him to request me to effect a peace.

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Inclosure in No. 64.

*Colonel Rose to the Maronite Patriarch.*

After compliments.

*Beyrout, November 18, 1841.*

I FEEL convinced that your Eminence must be most desirous that peace should be restored to your unhappy country which has now been, I deeply regret to say, the scene of a civil war for upwards of a month. If your Eminence thinks that my services can be of any use in effecting an object which must be desired by all friends of humanity and of order, they are entirely at the disposal of your Eminence.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

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No. 65.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 19, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship in continuation of my remarks on the conduct of the Turkish Authorities, that I represented twice to the Seraskier Selim Pasha the state of the district of Djenin; he replied, "that he would go to the mountains with a large force, and make a heap of the dead bodies of the Druses as high as the house." I knew that the Seraskier never intended to take a large force to the mountains, still less to fulfil his threats against the Druses. I told his Excellency that at least the presence of an officer of the Sultan in the disturbed parts of the country, who would express his reprobation of disorder, and of one part of the population carrying on war with the other, would be beneficial; that now convents, and houses, village after village had been burnt, their inmates on the approach of winter turned on the world without a roof or food; that whole districts had been for a fortnight the scene of a sanguinary civil war between two factions, not between the Government and a faction; and that up to this moment no step had been taken by the Government who was responsible for the peace, to terminate such a state of things, nor had any authority addressed to the hostile parties the language of reason or of remonstrance in the districts of Shoof or Djenin. I told Reshid Pasha, who was there and interpreted, that I thought it my duty to tell his Excellency that it was stated generally that the Turkish Authorities were either encouraging the Maronites and Druses to continue the civil war with a view to weaken both parties, or to crush the Maronite interest. I represented with great respect that it would be most desirable that steps should be taken which would convince the world that such statements were utterly groundless.

I also stated to his Excellency in confidence, that it was supposed by many well-informed persons that Mehemet Ali had excited the late troubles by means of the four Druse Sheiks whom he had decorated, and to whom it was known that he had given money and the title of Bey, by which they are at present designated. I remarked that three of these four chiefs, all of high and ancient family and great influence with the Druses, had been, as commanders, most conspicuous in the attack on Deir-el-Kammar, and in the subsequent events, and that although Naaman Bey had not been a combatant, he had effectually assisted

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the cause, by giving it the whole support of his family influence, and by making arrangements for the supply of ammunition and money, whilst his brother, young Said Bey, at the head of his tenantry and adherents, was with Nasif Bey and Hootoor Bey, all three supposed agents of Mehemet Ali, heading the Druses most effectually against the Maronites. His Excellency said nothing, but looked confused; formerly he was a warm opponent of Mehemet Ali, and used to express his feelings with respect to him most unreservedly to me; latterly, like the rest of the Turkish officers, he has changed; they avoid speaking of him; but when they do, they mention his Highness with awe and respect. Considering the present relation of Mehemet Ali with the Porte, this is only natural, but the fact is, that the Turkish officers still mistrust, but are afraid of Mehemet Ali. They are bound, they conceive, to respect, and they look with awe on the most powerful Pasha in the Sultan's dominions, and who now moreover is ostensibly a most loyal and submissive one. They see that his son Said Pasha, the bearer of large presents and friendly messages, is most favourably received by the Sublime Porte, and they hear the conjectures that Mehemet Ali is to be more intimately connected with their sovereign by the marriage of his son with a sister of the Sultan, and that the consequence of such an alliance might be the presentation by the Sultan of the government of Syria to his brother-in-law as a marriage portion. Mehemet Ali omits no opportunity for ingratiating himself with his sovereign. The "*Journal de Smyrne*," and the "*Echo de l'Orient*," which are paid a regular salary by the Porte, now praise Mehemet Ali as fulsomely as they formerly spoke disparagingly of him. The Turkish officers cannot lose sight of the fact, that whilst the treasury at Constantinople is said to be empty, and their officers and troops in this country unpaid, Mehemet Ali is rich; still less can they forget that his Highness at Homs, Koniah, and Nezib, gained signal victories over the troops of Sultan Mahmoud, a far more vigorous ruler than the present Sultan. These considerations are sufficient to inspire the Turks with awe of a man, who is now, with fair ships, the best troops in the East, and good finances, ready to act as the Sultan's servant with all the additional influence and authority of the Sultan's name.

Reshid Pasha has made frequent visits to the other Consuls and myself, sometimes to ask our advice, which he rarely followed, or to hear our opinion on the state of affairs. I never have varied in advising him earnestly to use his influence with the Seraskier and Defterdar, to induce them to take active measures for using such means as they had at their disposal for terminating the war, and which at least, if not successful, would remove a cause which had produced feelings of alienation amongst the Maronites, and had given encouragement to the Druses; I mean the universally entertained idea that the Turks view with satisfaction the hostilities carried on by both parties. The Consuls spoke to him in the same strain, but after the first few days subsequent to my return from Deir-el-Kammar, I felt so convinced that the Turks were acting with the Druses in secret against the Maronite interest which they considered so dangerous, that my position was not only useless but almost ridiculous in adducing arguments against a preconceived plan, which in all probability had emanated from Constantinople, for all think that Nejib Pasha, the Sultan's Lieutenant in Syria, would not have acted as he has done, unless he had been authorized to do so by secret instructions from the Porte; this circumstance, however, has never influenced me, in relaxing my efforts to prevail on the Turkish Authorities to act with good faith and decision.

After the meeting at Shooyfaat on the 6th, the Druses again began to send numerous parties of men secretly, both from that town and other places, in compliance with the earnest request of Shibli-el-Arian who was investing Zahlé.

Sheik Gundoor, a Maronite, caused a recommencement of hostilities after the 6th, by endeavouring to penetrate into the Meten; immediately afterwards the villages of Faluga and Zibdien were burnt by the Druses.

The Consuls and myself again made urgent representations to Reshid Pasha, who said he could produce dissension in five minutes betwixt the Druses, by making either Sheik Naaman or Sheik Abuneked Governor of the Druses. M. Basili asked him why he did not do so? his Excellency said nothing. M. Basili remarked, "It is not time yet; when you have disarmed the Christians you will then cause a quarrel amongst the Druses and disarm them." Reshid Pasha smiled, but did not contradict him. As we have previously done, we represented the danger of disarming the Christians, thus leaving a large part of the Christian

population at the mercy of their enemies, and without any protection on the part of the Government, I remarked to Reshid Pasha, that now again there was a favourable opportunity for moving on Deir-el-Kammar, as almost all the Druses had left it for Zahlé, to which place all their attention and force was directed; Turkish troops marching as if to Sidon and Beyrout, might meet in Damoor and reach Ibtdeen and Deir-el-Kammar in three hours from that place, whilst another body might march to Zahlé and relieve it. I said that these two moves would convince the Druses that the Turks did not sanction their attack on the Maronites, and cause the return of the Druses probably to their towns. I have the honour to say, that in the advice which I gave both now, and before, that the Turkish troops should march to Deir-el-Kammar, and Zahlé, I was fully aware of the impropriety of exposing the Turkish troops to even the chance of a collision with the Druses in the mountains. I always specified, that I meant that the Nizams should be sent, not the Hawara or irregular troops; influenced by the certainty which I felt from what I saw and know of the feeling of the Druses, that they would not at present offer opposition to the Turks; it would have been quite against their policy, as regards the Maronites, so to do. The possession of Deir-el-Kammar would also have checked any disposition on the part of the Druses to act hostilely towards the Turks at a future time. Reshid Pasha made indistinct promises of taking measures for stopping the recommencement of the hostilities, but as we saw no reasonable hope of the Turkish Authorities acting, as was to be desired, M. Basili, M. Bourrée, and myself, sent the collective letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy to your Lordship, to Selim Pasha. Reshid Pasha informed us the next day, that the Seraskier had not slept the night of the receipt of our letter; he sent no answer, which the Turks, seldom do, especially when they experience a difficulty in framing one. His Excellency sent, the day after he had received our letter, five battalions of infantry, and fifty-five cavalry, and four guns, under Reshid Pasha, by the route of Beit Merch to Zahlé. Reshid Pasha stated, that he should arrive the third day at Zahlé, twelve hours from this place. On the third his Excellency only reached Beit Merch, three leagues from Beyrout.

On the 16th instant Mr. Werry informed me, that in answer to a question from him to the Seraskier, his Excellency had told him, "that Reshid Pasha on his arrival at Zahlé would disarm the inhabitants." His Excellency, on Mr. Werry's expressing some surprise, qualified what he had said, but Mr. Werry thinks that the first statement of his Excellency expressed his real intentions, which accorded with the opinion now prevalent, that the Turkish Authorities wish to cause the dismemberment of the Christians. The same day, the Seraskier informed M. Basili and myself, that he had no intention of disarming the people of Zahlé at present but that when tranquillity was restored, he would commence a general disarmament of the Mountaineers. Mr. Werry however states, that the Seraskier's first statement to him was distinct, and left no doubt on his mind as to the order given to Reshid Pasha to disarm the people of Zahlé on his arrival there.

Being extremely desirous of obtaining information for Her Majesty's Government of the fate of Zahlé, the fall of which place would have settled that of the Kesrouan, and affected most prejudicially the Christian interest in Syria, and being therefore most anxious to prevent both the surrender of the town and the disarmament of its defenders, I despatched Major Wilbraham, of the 7th Fusiliers, with a letter to Reshid Pasha, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, giving also to that officer a memorandum of instructions, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship.

I was aware that it was irregular to send Major Wilbraham without communicating my intentions to the Seraskier, but he is unfortunately so very limited in understanding, and so afraid of taking any sort of responsibility on himself, that I knew that his Excellency would have made obstacles which would have prevented me from sending Major Wilbraham, and obtaining the good results which I anticipated from his mission. It is impossible to act always with the Turkish Authorities according to rule, to which, besides, they themselves rarely conform; in emergencies therefore, I act according to what appears to me to be the best for the good of Her Majesty's service.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

*Collective Letter from Colonel Rose, M. Basili, and M. Bourrée, to Selim Pasha.*

Excellence,

TEMOINS des malheurs qui affligent le Mont Liban, et dans la crainte d'une catastrophe fatale pour la province dont l'administration vous est confiée, et la Syrie toute entière, les Soussignés, après les représentations itératives qu'ils ont eu l'honneur de vous adresser, tantôt isolément, tantôt collectivement, et dans une vaine attente de l'exécution des promesses faites pour le rétablissement de la paix et de la sécurité publique, mais autant par l'intérêt que leurs Gouvernemens respectifs, Alliés de la Sublime Porte, ont exprimé pour le bien-être des populations récemment placées sous son administration, que par le sentiment de leurs devoirs vis-à-vis de leurs nationaux, dont les intérêts sont gravement compromis par leurs sentimens personnels; enfin, en présence de l'humanité souffrante, se font un devoir d'appeler toute l'attention de votre Excellence sur les considérations développées ci-après.

1°. Sans entrer dans un examen tardif des causes qui ont produit ce malheureux conflit entre les Druses et les Maronites de la Montagne, nous nous bornons à observer, que depuis un mois que la guerre civile désole ce pays, l'action ostensible du Gouvernement s'est réduite à envoyer à Deir-el-Kammar deux officiers, dont la présence, loin d'arrêter le progrès du mal, n'a servi qu'à compromettre la dignité du Gouvernement; car ces officiers, insultés et maltraités, ont été amenés à présider eux-mêmes à la rendition et au désarmement illégal de Deir-el-Kammar, pillée ensuite par les Druses; malgré la présence de ces mêmes officiers, le Grand Prince du Liban a été dépouillé de ses vêtemens et de ses armes.

Une seconde résolution a été arrêtée: la visite de Votre Excellence à Chouifat, où nous avons eu l'honneur de vous accompagner, sur l'invitation qui nous avait été faite. Cette visite et les protestations de soumission de la part des Druses, n'ont pas empêché, pourtant, que les hostilités continuassent en votre présence; et, depuis deux jours, les incendies se sont continuellement renouvelés dans les villages abandonnés par les Chrétiens.

2°. Il est vrai, qu'au lieu d'une intervention active entre les deux parties, (qui, à une lieue de Beyrout, se livrèrent à tous les excès de la guerre civile, en présence d'un camp de troupes régulières,) quelques munitions ont été envoyées aux Maronites; mais il n'en est pas moins vrai aussi, que les Druses ont été abondamment pourvus de munitions expédiées de Damas, malgré les représentations qui en avaient été itérativement faites à Son Excellence Nejib Pacha, par les Consuls résidans dans cette ville.

3°. Aucun acte public n'ayant manifesté, jusqu'à ce jour, aux populations du Liban, la volonté du Gouvernement relativement à la lutte actuelle, les chefs Druses interprètent déjà ce silence et cette inaction en faveur de leur cause, pour armer les populations et alimenter la guerre civile; tandis que le bruit sinistre circule parmi les Maronites, que les Druses ont pris les armes pour l'avilissement de leur nation, à la suite d'un ordre secret du Gouvernement.

Sans donner à ces croyances plus de valeur qu'elles n'en méritent, nous nous bornons à les signaler à votre Excellence comme pouvant produire les résultats les plus désastreux, si les Maronites, vaincus jusqu'à présent, et se croyant oubliés de leurs protecteurs légitimes et naturels, sont abandonnés à leur désespoir.

4°. Une troupe irrégulière a été appelée de Damas ici; campée depuis dix jours au voisinage du théâtre de la guerre, elle a borné son activité à dépouiller les malheureux qui avaient été épargnés par les Druses, ou qui étaient parvenus à se soustraire au pillage, et cherchaient un refuge à Beyrout. Les fuyards, hommes, femmes et enfans, ont été saisis et maltraités par ces hommes rangés sous les bannières du Gouvernement, et les ornemens de femmes, respectés par les Montagnards, au milieu même du pillage, furent la proie de ceux qui devaient les protéger.

De plus grands excès ont été commis devant Saïde. Nous les signalons à votre Excellence moins pour la gravité des incidens que pour le fâcheux effet qu'ils produisent dans la population Chrétienne.

5°. Au mépris de l'engagement signé en notre présence par les Druses, les incendies se renouvelaient hier encore dans le voisinage de Beyrout, lorsqu'un

crieur public ordonnait aux malheureux réfugiés dans la ville, de rentrer chez eux. Plusieurs de ces hommes, confians dans la déclaration de l'autorité, sont sortis pour se rendre dans leurs maisons ruinées; ils furent de nouveau maltraités et dépouillés de leurs derniers vêtemens par les soldats irréguliers.

6°. Des avis dignes de confiance apprennent à chacun de nous, que les Druses du Liban sont en marche pour attaquer la ville de Zahlé, où ils doivent combiner leur action avec Chibli-Arian, chef des milices irrégulières au service de Nejib Pacha, et qui, soit de son propre chef, soit par ordre supérieur, a déjà désarmé les Chrétiens de Hasbeya et Rasheya, complètement étrangers aux événemens du Liban.

Ce système de désarmement effectué par un des partis sur l'autre ne fait que lui donner une nouvelle audace, et le rendre arbitre, sans frein, de toute une population qui n'acquiert pas même la sécurité en échange de ses armes enlevées. Plusieurs villages du Bekaa ont été saccagés par les Druses du Pachalic de Damas. Les plus vives alarmes saisissent déjà le Kesrouan, dont la ruine sera annoncée, soit par le désarmement, soit par le sac de Zahlé.

Les Soussignés, péniblement affectés de cet état de choses, avaient dû se décider à soumettre les considérations qui précèdent à la sagesse de votre Excellence, lorsque le Patriarche Maronite s'est adressé à eux, pour leur demander si les désastres qui ont eu lieu depuis les promesses faites en leur présence à Chouifat, et qui menacent encore sa nation, sont tolérés par le Gouvernement, qui n'en veut pas arrêter le cours; ou si le Gouvernement n'a pas actuellement les moyens d'action suffisans pour rétablir l'ordre et protéger les sujets du Sultan.

Les Soussignés se font un devoir de soumettre également cette question à votre Excellence, en la priant de vouloir bien les honorer d'une réponse qui soit de nature à les éclairer sur la véritable situation de ce pays, et les mettre à même de prêter à l'autorité légitime, conformément à la volonté unanime de leurs Gouvernemens respectifs, tout leur appui moral pour le maintien de l'ordre public dans ces provinces.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) HUGH ROSE.  
J. BASILI.  
C. BOURREE.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

THE Undersigned, witnesses of the calamities which afflict Mount Lebanon, and under the apprehension of a catastrophe fatal to the province of which the government is confided to you, and to the whole of Syria, after the repeated representations which they have had the honour to address to you, as well singly, as collectively, and in a vain expectation of the execution of the promises made for the re-establishment of peace and public security, but as much from the interest which their respective Governments, Allies of the Sublime Porte, have expressed for the well being of the people recently placed under your administration, as from a feeling of their duties to their respective nations, whose interests are seriously compromised by their personal sentiments; in short, in presence of suffering humanity, they make it a duty to call your Excellency's whole attention to the considerations hereafter developed.

1st. Without entering into a tardy examination of the causes which have produced this unhappy conflict between the Druses and the Maronites of the mountain, we confine ourselves to observing, that for a month, during which the civil war has desolated this country, the ostensible action of the Government has been limited to sending to Deir-el-Kammar two officers, whose presence, far from arresting the progress of the evil, has only served to compromise the dignity of the Government; because these officers, insulted and ill-treated, have been themselves forced to preside at the surrender and illegal disarming of Deir-el-Kammar, pillaged afterwards by the Druses: notwithstanding the presence of these same officers, the Great Prince of the Lebanon has been stripped of his clothes and of his arms.

A second resolution was taken: the visit of your Excellency to Shoofaat, where we had the honour to accompany you, on the invitation which had been



made to us. This visit, and the protestations of submission on the part of the Druses, have not, however, prevented hostilities continuing in your presence; and for the last two days fires are being continually rekindled in the villages abandoned by the Christians.

2nd. It is true, that instead of an active interference between the two parties, (who, at a league from Beyrout, indulged in all the excesses of civil war, in the presence of a camp of regular troops,) some ammunitions have been sent to the Maronites; but it is not less true also, that the Druses have been abundantly provided with ammunitions sent from Damascus, notwithstanding the representations which had been repeatedly made to his Excellency Nejib Pasha, by the Consuls residing in that town.

3rd. No public document having, up to this day, made known to the people of the Lebanon the will of the Government relative to the present struggle, the Druse Chiefs already interpret this silence and this inaction in favour of their cause, in order to arm the people and to foment the civil war; while the unfavourable report circulates among the Maronites, that the Druses have taken up arms for the destruction of their nation, in consequence of a secret order of the Government.

Without attaching to these suspicions more value than they deserve, we confine ourselves to pointing them out to your Excellency, as calculated to produce the most disastrous results, if the Maronites, conquered up to the present time, and believing themselves forgotten by their legitimate and natural protectors, are abandoned to their despair.

4th. An irregular force has been summoned from Damascus to this place; encamped for ten days in the neighbourhood of the theatre of the war, it has limited its activity to pillaging the wretched people who had been spared by the Druses, or who had succeeded in escaping the pillage, and sought refuge at Beyrout. The fugitives, men, women, and children, have been seized and ill-treated by these men, enrolled under the banners of the Government, and the ornaments of women, respected by the Mountaineers even in the midst of plunder, were the prey of those who ought to protect them.

The greatest excesses have been committed before Saida. We point them out to your Excellency, less on account of the importance of the incidents, than on account of the grievous effect which they produce among the Christian population.

5th. In disregard of the engagement signed in our presence by the Druses, the fires were again rekindled yesterday in the neighbourhood of Beyrout, when a public crier ordered the wretched refugees in the town to retire to their homes. Several of these men, trusting in the declaration of the authority, went out to return to their ruined houses; they were again ill-treated and plundered of their last garment by the irregular soldiers.

6th. Advices worthy to be relied upon inform each of us, that the Druses of the Lebanon are on the march to attack the town of Zahlé, where they are to combine their action with Shibli-el-Arian, chief of the irregular militia in the service of Nejib Pasha, and who, whether on his own account, or by superior order, has already disarmed the Christians of Hasbeya and Rasheya, completely strangers to the events of the Lebanon.

This system of disarming effected by one of the parties with respect to the other, cannot but give to it fresh audacity, and render it master without restraint of a whole population which does not even acquire security in exchange for its arms taken away. Several villages of the Bekaa have been sacked by the Druses of the Pashalic of Damascus. The utmost alarm has already seized the Kesrouan, whose ruin will be announced either by disarmament, or by the sacking of Zahlé.

The Undersigned, painfully affected by this state of things, could not but have determined to submit the preceding considerations to the wisdom of your Excellency, when the Maronite Patriarch addressed himself to them, to ask them if the disasters which have taken place since the promises made in their presence at Shoofaat, and which still menace his nation, are tolerated by the Government, which does not wish to stop their course; or if the Government actually has not means sufficient to re-establish order and to protect the subjects of the Sultan.

The Undersigned deem it a duty to submit this question equally to your Excellency, praying you to be good enough to honour them with an answer



which may be calculated to enlighten them as to the true situation of this country, and to enable them to lend to the legitimate authority, agreeably to the unanimous wish of their respective Governments, all their moral assistance for the maintenance of public order in these provinces.

Accept, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.  
J. BASILI.  
C. BOURREE.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

*Colonel Rose to Reshid Pasha.*

Mon cher Général,

16 Novembre, 1841.

J'EXPEDIE aujourd'hui auprès de vous, le Major Wilbraham, qui a déjà l'honneur de vous connaître, et qui est chargé de me donner sans retard de vos nouvelles. J'ose vous prier de lui donner aussi des renseignemens sur l'état actuel des affaires du Liban. Ces nouvelles m'intéressent d'autant plus, que je me propose de prier le Capitaine Pring de vouloir bien expédier sous peu de jours un bateau à vapeur pour Malte. J'espère, mon Général, qu'elles seront tout-à-fait rassurantes, et que la Montagne se ressent déjà de l'effet de votre présence; et j'espère aussi pouvoir donner à mon Gouvernement par le prochain courrier, des notices moins alarmantes sur l'état politique de ce pays, que celles, du paquebot qui est parti immédiatement après le désastre de Baabda.

Agréez, &c.,  
(Signé) HUGH ROSE.

(Translation.)

My dear General,

November 16, 1841.

I SEND to you to-day, Major Wilbraham, who has already the honour of knowing you, and who is charged to give me news of you without delay. I venture also to beg you to give him information of the actual state of the affairs of the Lebanon. This news interests me the more, because I propose to beg Captain Pring to be good enough to send in a few days a steamer to Malta. I trust, Mon Général, that they will be entirely encouraging, and that the Mountain feels already the effect of your presence; and I trust also to be able to give to my Government by the next courier, less alarming news on the political state of this country, than that by the packet which left immediately after the disaster of Baabda.

Accept, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 65.

*Memorandum of Instructions to Major Wilbraham.*

Beyrout, November 16, 1841.

MAJOR WILBRAHAM will endeavour to ascertain from Reshid Pasha what his real purpose and orders are; whether he intends to protect the Kesrouan, or to march upon Zahlé; and to learn from him whether he contemplates or is instructed to disarm the Christians or the inhabitants of Zahlé; and if so, Major Wilbraham will do his best to dissuade him from putting such a measure into execution. Should he be decided on this head, Major Wilbraham may inform him that Selim Pasha informed M. Basili and Colonel Rose to-day, that he had no intention whatever of disarming the Christians or inhabitants of Zahlé.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, November 19, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship further details of the hostile operations between the Druses and Maronites.

On the 15th October the inhabitants of Djenin and its neighbourhood, on the receipt of the news of the attack on Deir-el-Kammar, sent for assistance to the inhabitants of Kelim Tuffah, and at the same date priests were sent from Djenin and the Convent of Mashmushe to Sidon, to purchase arms and ammunition, in effecting which they were assisted by the Christians of Sidon.

Abusumra, with four hundred men from Kelim Djenin, went into the district of Shoof, and burnt Bater and Niha, Druse villages, after which he returned to Beasin, his own village. This act of Abusumra's was the commencement of the burning of villages. On the 16th the nuns of the Convent of Mookalles arrived in Sidon.

On the 19th October two priests arrived at Beyrout from the district of Djenin, bought one hundred and thirty okes of powder (an oke is nearly two pounds and a half), at twenty-four piastres an oke, which was an increase of eight piastres on the oke, and conveyed it by sea to Sidon, and from thence to Djenin.

On the 19th ultimo, Mubaid, an inhabitant of Sidon, who had left that town on the 16th with three hundred men, attacked three hundred Druses who had come to Menegbeine, and who were burning the village of Bhunnim, repulsed and killed thirty-two of them. The same day the Druses who had attacked Abusumra at Niha were worsted.

On the 20th ultimo, Bishop Philip, brother of the Patriarch, bought fifty pieces of lead for musket balls, which were carried out on the backs of Fellahs to the Maronite camp at Baabda.

On the 21st ultimo, Sheik Said Djinblat, who had been at the attack on Deir-el-Kammar, arrived from that place and the Shoof at Marey Besne, with about eight hundred or one thousand men, almost all of them retainers or tenants of his brother, Sheik Naaman Djinblat, or Naaman Bey, as is his Egyptian title.

Naaman Bey affects to deprecate the war in general, and the conduct of his brother; but I have reason to believe that in secret he supports him by all the means which his large property and family influence afford him. It is said that in the Shoof he made abatements of rent and other concessions to the Mussulman part of his tenantry, in order to induce them to take part with the Druses,—a proceeding which their sympathy with that people, and the hope of pillage, did not render disagreeable to them. Thus reinforced, he attacked Abusumra, and drove him out of the small towns of Debbin and Bekesin, which, according to the barbarous custom of both parties in this war, he burnt. The Maronite accounts state also that the Druses in some cases violated women; but this has not been confirmed; and the account that the nuns of the Convent of Mookalles were violated, is untrue, as they are safe in Sidon, and their convent unburnt.

Little resistance was offered by Abusumra and the Maronites, who concentrated their forces, and retired on Djenin, thus abandoning his intention of assisting in the succour of Deir-el-Kammar.

On the 31st October, Said Bey marched with part of his force against the Convent of Mashmushe, half-way between Sidon and Djenin; the monks, seventy in number, had committed the imprudence to send out their retainers, Sheiks, and two hundred men, to give battle to the Druses; they were put to flight, and the Druses entered the convent with them. It is a very strong large building, and protected besides by a castle or citadel, provisioned for a year, and with its garrison it might have made an effectual resistance. The Druses found considerable treasure in it, some of it belonging to the Ex-Emir Beshir, who had left it there when he embarked for Malta. Being a favourite convent, it was full of the offerings and presents of the Maronites, residing in that part of the country. Of corn, there are alone 100 gabarras. The Druses having assembled their forces, possessed themselves of the whole of the Province of Shoof, and of the district of Djenin, and invested the town of that name. I had the honour to inclose a

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petition from its inhabitants, Inclosure 3, in my despatch of this day, which proved their helpless state.

After two or three days, the Christians compelled Abusumra, who did not wish to surrender to the Druses, to retire to Sidon, when they gave up their arms and town to Sheik Said, who did not further molest them. Part of the Druse force from the Shoof had already proceeded in the direction of Abbaye, to threaten the Maronite forces there, under the Emir Kais, who was endeavouring to succour Deir-el-Kammar; and on the surrender of Djenin, the remainder of the Druses, under Sheik Said, proceeded in that direction. In the mean time, the Christians, whose sole object was the relief of Deir-el-Kammar, an undertaking to which their interest, pride, and resentment, urged them most strongly, continued to assemble their forces, and stationed them so as to turn, if possible, that important point, avoiding the direct road from Beyrout, which led by the strong positions of Ain-es-Schub, Ainoob, and Djesr-el-Kadi.

Since the 21st October, Emir Kais had been stationed in Abbaye, where he had burnt two Druse churches, and several of their houses; he also burnt the Druse houses in Ain-es-Suk, and seven Druse women perished in the flames. He was re-inforced soon afterwards by the Emir Abdallah, brother of the Emir Beshir, with 1500 men. Between the 21st and 27th of October, skirmishes took place between the Greek Antiochian Christians, their allies, the Druses from Shoofaat, and the main body of the Maronites stationed in Baabda. On the 27th, Emir Abdallah, from Abbaye, with a reinforcement from Baabda, which marched over the plain of Beyrout, near Damour, attempted to make a flank movement from Abbaye, in the direction of Damour, and so turn Deir-el-Kammar, in which he failed, and retired to Abbaye, and from thence to Baabda. A detachment of fifty men who had remained behind the reinforcement from Baabda, and were proceeding along the sea-shore to join it, were surprised by the Druses and cut to pieces, with the exception of eight men, who were taken to Shoofaat. The Emirs Abdallah and Kais again tried to pass up the bed of the river Kadi, below the Djesr, or bridge, to Deir-el-Kammar, and were again unsuccessful. Sheik Gundoor, with 500 men in Rasheya, a village two miles above the Djesr-el-Kadi, and another body of Maronites from Baabda marched to the north, and made a feeble and vain attempt to succour Deir-el-Kammar from that quarter.

On the 31st October, the Emir Kais, in advance at Abbaye, aware of the successes of the Druses, and of their march to attack him, returned to Baabda (under pretext of getting ammunition) with 100 men. This appears to have been the signal for a general retreat of the Maronites from the positions which they had taken up in advance, for the purpose of relieving Deir-el-Kammar; an example which was followed by a great part of the force in Baabda. Parties of Maronites, in tens, twenties, and thirties, began to take the road to the Kesrouan and other parts of the mountain. On the 1st November, the remainder of the Maronite force in Abbaye, Ain-es-Suk, and the adjoining villages, retreated to Baabda, from whence they continued to retreat in great numbers to their houses, during the first week in November. In the mean time, the Druses, under Sheik Said, arrived at Ain-es-Suk and Abbaye, on the 3rd and 4th instant, and set such houses as remained standing in flames, those of the Druses had been already burnt. Sheik Said had more motives than one for marching on Abbaye, for, besides expelling from that neighbourhood the force which was threatening Deir-el-Kammar, he rescued Mal-id-Deen, the head of the Druse sacred family, a very wealthy man, and father of the person to whom he is betrothed. On the 2d instant, Nasif Bey and Youssuf Abd-el-Melek made a movement from Deir-el-Kammar simultaneous with that of Sheik Said, against Rasheya and Sheik Gundoor, who retreated, leaving Rasheya, the convents of San Antonio, San Elia, San Maronio, and his own house a prey to the Druses, who burnt them. They also burnt a French college, Antrass, near there, and a nephew of the Patriarch who was in it. On the 3d instant, the monks of these convents and Sheik Gundoor's sister arrived in Beyrout, on foot. On the 3d instant, the Druse forces moved from the places which they had taken, and which I have just mentioned, on Deir-el-Kammar, the inhabitants of which surrendered their arms on the night of the 4th instant. In another despatch of this date the events which took place subsequent to that are described: in addition to them, I have the honour to state, that the Druses took down the bells of the Christian places of worship, destroying the belfries. The loss of the Christians in the attack was about 45 fighting men, and 39 wounded;

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that of the Druses, 200 fighting men, and 40 wounded. The loss of property is estimated at from fifteen to twenty thousand purses,—equal to a sum of from seventy-five to one hundred thousand pounds. Seventy-five camel-loads of booty are stated to have been sent to the Haouran. I stated in my despatch, that I did not think that the Maronites would ever reach Deir-el-Kammar. The Emir Beshir, when I was staying with him after the attack, told me that he had written to his brother, the Emir Abdallah, and that he would relieve the town in a very short time with 2000 men. I begged his Highness not to reckon on relief, for that I was certain it would never arrive. On the 5th instant, the Maronites took a messenger going from Shoofaat to Beyrout. Sheik Yakoob Habesh, a relation of the Patriarch, sought him out in the prison, and cut his throat. On the 5th instant, the evil destiny of the Maronites led the remnant of them—they had been reduced from 7000 to 2500—to attack the Greek-Antiochians, 600 in number, and the Druses, 300 fighting men, in Shoofaat. The misplaced zeal of several priests induced them to make the rash attempt. They divided themselves into three parties. Shoofaat is very strongly situated on three hills which rise from the side of the mountain, between each of which there is a deep ravine. The attack was directed in the first instance on the right hill,—the party on the left trying to turn it on the right, that of the centre to get into the town, and that of the right to penetrate into it by a narrow, rocky, and steep road which leads up to the town from the plain of Beyrout. The party on the right never reached its destination, which is not to be wondered at, for in a road where one horse with difficulty mounts the hill, they were preceded by 300 Maronite cavalry; fifteen Druses stationed in the mulberry gardens over the road routed this cavalry, who as quickly, in their retreat, routed their own infantry. The centre column, under the Emir Kais, reached the first houses of Shoofaat, but in their haste to set three houses on fire, and to make two Druse women prisoners, they were attacked and repulsed by the Shoofaatians, retiring as precipitately as their companions on the right. The left party gained the top of the hill over Shoofaat, from which they had a view of the two parties who were to co-operate with them; seized with the same panic, and afraid of being cut off, they ran also, and so rapid and so immediate was the retreat of the three bodies, that very few were killed. In their fears they omitted to enter into, and occupy the strong villages of Baabda and Haddet, but continued their flight to the Kesrouan and Nahr-el-Kelb, the Hawaras, an irregular Turkish cavalry, which had been sent to preserve the peace, joining in the pursuit, killing and pillaging all they could reach. The Druses now entered Baabda and Haddet, the late head-quarters of the Maronites. They pillaged the house of the Emir Beshir, of the Emir Melkem, Commander-in-Chief of the Maronite forces, and of the principal inhabitants in both places. In the former they took property to the amount of five hundred thousand piastres. The Emir, a wealthy person, kept a quantity of money, as these people very often do, in chests; his wife's fortune, jewels, and money, and the ornaments for the head, were also captured, as well as ten of the highest-bred and best horses in the Lebanon. Seven hundred and fifty thousand piastres belonging to the Patriarch, or rather the money which had been subscribed by France and Austria for charitable purposes, but which had been applied by the Patriarch to the purposes of the war, was taken in the house of a person of the name of Bahut, a relation of the Patriarch, in Baabda, by the Druses. The defeat of Shoofaat finished the operations on the offensive of the Maronites. By sunset there was scarcely a Maronite on this side of Nahr-el-Kelb, or the Dog River.

Towards the end of October Shibli-el-Arian disarmed the inhabitants of Rash-eya and Hasbeya, and the arms were given to the Druses, to whom he also gave ammunition; from thence he proceeded to the valley of the Bekaa on the pretext of collecting the Miri for the Sultan, but with the real intention of collecting the arms of the Christians, making booty, and attacking Zahlé, before which place M. Basili found him on the 2nd of November. Shibli-el-Arian said that the Christians had attacked him, but he consented, at M. Basili's urgent request, to defer his attack, till M. Basili should procure an order from the Seraskier to the people of Zahlé not to molest his troops, in which case he agreed to draw off his force. M. Basili obtained the letter to the people of Zahlé, and another to Shibli-el-Arian, from the Seraskier, requesting them both to abstain from further hostilities, but in spite of this, having collected Druse reinforcements from Shoofaat, Deir-el-Kammar, and other places, he attacked the town on the 6th instant, which had been reinforced by the Emir Hangiar, a Mutuali Chief, with one

thousand cavalry and infantry, but was repulsed, and was himself slightly wounded. He repeated the attack on the 13th instant. The men of Zahlé had placed a considerable portion of their force in an old entrenchment round the town, which had been made by Ibrahim Pasha, and which they had improved. The Emir Hangiar also withdrew his force to the rear of Malaka, which is a village close to Zahlé. A part of the Druses got into Malaka, and commenced plundering it, the remainder attacked Zahlé. When they got near to the ditch, the inhabitants gave them their fire, when the Druses retreated rapidly, at the same time the Emir Hangiar charged those in Malaka with his cavalry, which completed their rout. The loss of the Christians was trifling, that of the Druses more severe. They retired to Habb Elias, and the surrounding villages, and as the Druse Chief, the Emir Emin Raslan, returned with his men to Shooyfaat on the 14th instant, it is to be hoped that the march of Reshid Pasha has induced the Druses to abandon their attempt to take Zahlé. This repulse of the Druses affords a better hope of peace.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 67.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 19, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that on the 3rd of November Father Hanna came to me, on the part of the Maronite Patriarch, and stated that his Eminence was convinced that the late outbreak was the result of an intrigue of Mehemet Ali and of Nejib Pasha. He stated a variety of reasons for coming to this conclusion, which are very nearly the same as those I have already adduced to your Lordship, and among others that Bahri Bey's brother had been left in Damascus, and had quitted it only twenty days ago. He said also that Nejib Pasha had secretly supplied ammunition to the Druses.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 68.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 20, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that Major Wilbraham has just returned, and I have only time to inclose a copy of his Report, as well as a copy of a letter from Reshid Pasha, who commands the Turkish troops at Zahlé, to me.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 68.

*Major Wilbraham to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Beyrout, November 20, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you that in obedience to your instructions I left this place on the 17th instant, in order to proceed to the camp of Reshid Pasha. On reaching the Bekaa, I learnt that the Druses had retired beyond the Lutani, and that the Turkish troops had taken up their quarters in the village of Malaka, about half a mile below the town of Zahlé. I therefore halted for the night at the village of Zedideh, and proceeded early on the following morning to the head-quarters of Reshid Pasha.

His Excellency received me with much courtesy, and invited me to share his quarters, where I remained until the next day. He informed me that on his arrival in the Bekaa, on the 15th instant, he had found the villages of Rab-Elias and Makseh occupied by the Druses, in number between two and three thousand, independent of the force under Shibli-el-Arian, which occupied Bar-Elias. He immediately sent orders to their Sheiks to return to their own country; but not feeling sure that they would quietly submit to be deprived of their expected prey, he thought it prudent to bivouac that night in the plain, rather than to scatter his men in the villages. On the morrow they all retired, but up to the evening of the 18th instant the principal Sheiks had not dispersed, but occupied the village of Jobjennin, with about a thousand men, while Shibli-el-Arian took up his quarters in a village two hours distant, with about two hundred horsemen, and an equal number of foot. The Pasha told me that he had sent them a second order to disperse, which, if they did not promptly obey, he would take measures to enforce.

I took an early opportunity of speaking to his Excellency, as you desired me, on the subject of disarming the inhabitants of Zahlé, which I had heard from many sources it was his intention to do, but his Excellency gave me the most positive assurances that he had received no instructions whatever so to do. He added, that it was his intention, so soon as the Druses should have dispersed, to leave a garrison in Zahlé, and to dispose of the rest of his force in Deir-el-Kammar, and other central positions.

In the course of the day I rode into the town, and called upon the Greek Catholic Bishop, with whom I found the Emir Abdallah, one of those whom Ibrahim Pasha had sent to Egypt. From them I learnt that two skirmishes had taken place between the Christians and Druses, the first on the 6th instant, the second on the 13th instant. They stated their loss to have been on the first occasion five, on the latter fifteen killed, while, by their account, that of the Druses amounted to three hundred. A Druse Sheik, whom I met the day before, acknowledged that his party had lost thirty men, which, though probably understated, must be far nearer the truth. It is likely that the loss was greater on the part of the Druses than on that of the Christians, the latter having fought under cover; for riding round the town I saw several bodies lying in the gardens and vineyards. The Bishop told me that the number of fighting men in Zahlé, including the Mutualis, who had accompanied the Emir Hangiar, was somewhat more than three thousand. The enemy he estimated at six thousand, but from all that I could learn they did not exceed half that number. The Bishop informed me that he had seen the order from Nejib Pasha to the Emir Hangiar to proceed to the succour of Zahlé; also one to the same effect from Selim Pasha. The Emir had been summoned to Baalbec a few days before my arrival, on account of some disturbances there, but was expected again at Zahlé the day that I left.

Reshid Pasha appeared hardly to know in what light to look upon Shibli-el-Arian. The reason assigned by the latter for attacking Zahlé, was, that while he was collecting the revenue of the Bekaa, the inhabitants of Zahlé killed three of his men, but this accusation they declared to be totally groundless. The Druses all assert that he has Nejib Pasha's authority for disarming the Christians, but he has shewn no order to that effect. He has had no personal communication with Nejib Pasha.

With regard to Galib Bey, I ascertained that he was in Bar-Elias, with Shibli-el-Arian, at the time of the second attack being made on Zahlé. He had previously been in the town, and had made it known that he was the bearer of orders from the Seraskier to Shibli-el-Arian, to withdraw. Reshid Pasha informed me, that Shibli-el-Arian had entertained the Bey with pipes and conversation, while he sent out his men to attack the town. He himself was not present at the second affray, on account of a slight wound which he had received at the first.

I must not omit to mention, that the Bishop informed me that Reshid Pasha had made no demand for the arms of the inhabitants, and gave me to understand that if any such demand were made, it would not be complied with, as the Christians placed more reliance on their own means of defence than on the assurances of Turkish protection. On the whole the Christians did not appear to place implicit confidence in the Pasha's sincerity, and he remarked to me that it was hard to be distrusted by both parties.

Between eight and nine o'clock, on the evening of the 18th instant, while I



was in the Pasha's quarters, the alarm was given that a night attack had been made upon Zahlé. A few shots were fired, after which the church bells sounded the alarm, and the women raised the peculiar cry which they make when in danger. The troops turned out very quickly, but the uproar soon ceased, and we found that it was a false alarm. The guards, who still continued to keep a watch round the town, either saw or imagined they saw some one approaching their post, and fired off their muskets.

I left Malaka yesterday morning, returning through the villages of Tarshish, Antoura, and Meten, and am happy to be able to inform you that the reports which had reached Beyrout, of the devastations committed by the Druses in that district, have been greatly exaggerated. With the exception of the two small villages of Zebdeen and Kakour, the principal part of which has been burnt, very little damage has been done. Small parties of Druses are, however, wandering about in search of plunder, and there is a general, and well-founded feeling of alarm among the Christians. Hitherto the Druses have not committed any depredations to the north of Meten, which may be considered the northernmost limit of the Druse country, but the inhabitants of the adjacent villages live in constant dread, and have sent their families and property into the convents, for greater security. The movement of the Turkish troops upon Zahlé, and the consequent removal of the main body of the Druses, have, however, done much towards restoring tranquillity.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WILBRAHAM.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 68.

*Reshid Pasha to Colonel Rose.*

Mon cher Colonel,

*Zahlé, 16 Novembre, 1841.*

J'AI vu avec bien de plaisir le Major de Wilbraham, que vous avez eu la bonté de m'envoyer pour savoir de mes nouvelles. Depuis quatre jours je suis entré dans Zahlé; dès le jour de mon entrée, les Druses à qui j'avais ordonné de se rendre chacun chez lui, se sont retirés à un village de sept à huit heures d'ici. Tous les Chéïks se trouvent réunis là avec un millier d'hommes, et donnent pour prétexte de leur réunion, que les Chrétiens du côté de Meten se rassemblent. J'ai fait savoir aux Chrétiens et aux Druses, qu'à l'avenir tout rassemblement ne les regardait pas, que c'était l'affaire du Gouvernement, qui punirait sévèrement ces espèces de réunions. Dans deux ou trois jours, en prenant quelque disposition, j'espère que tout le monde sera rentré chez soi. Les rapports qui m'arrivent de la Montagne sont assez satisfaisants: le Major Wilbraham vous donnera les détails de la terreur panique qui s'est emparée hier au soir des habitans de Zahlé, qui se sont mis tous sous les armes à cause d'une fausse alarme que leur garde leur avait donnée.

En attendant le plaisir de vous donner des nouvelles plus satisfaisantes, &c.  
(Signé) MEHMET RECHID PACHA.

(Translation.)

My dear Colonel,

*Zahlé, November 16, 1841.*

I SAW with much pleasure Major Wilbraham, whom you were good enough to send for news about me. Four days back I entered Zahlé; from the day of my arrival, the Druses, whom I had ordered to return to their respective homes, have retired to a village seven or eight hours' distant from hence. All the Sheiks are collected there with a thousand men, and allege as the cause of their so assembling, that the Christians are assembling towards Meten. I let both Christians and Druses know, that for the future all such assemblages did not concern them, but were the business of Government, which would severely punish these kinds of assemblages. In two or three days, by means of some arrangement, I hope that all the people will have returned home. The reports which reach me from the Mountain, are pretty satisfactory. Major Wilbraham



will give you the details of the panic which yesterday evening seized the inhabitants of Zahlé, who took up arms in consequence of a false alarm given them by their guard.

Hoping that I shall soon have the pleasure of giving you more satisfactory intelligence,

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) MEHMET REGHID PACHA.

No. 69.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 26.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, October 19, 1841.*

SINCE writing my report of to-day's date, relative to the collision that has taken place at Deir-el-Kammar, between the Druses and the Christians, the Russian Consul was good enough to communicate to me a letter which contains some further details respecting the affray, extracts of which I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship.

It confirms the opinion that this plot was a premeditated one on the part of Sheik Naaman Djimlat and others, whose names are mentioned therein, and as this individual and Emir Enin Raslan, are now becoming conspicuous in the affairs of Syria, I dare venture to communicate to your Lordship what I know respecting them.

Sheik Naaman left Syria about seventeen years ago soon after his father, Sheik Beshir, was decapitated by the Pasha of Acre; and though he visited Constantinople for a short period, yet he resided mostly in Egypt.

During the war Mehemet Ali Pasha created him a Bey, and invested him with the Government of Mount Lebanon, provided he could wrest it from the hands of the Turkish Generals. With this object he joined the Egyptian forces at Gaza, but the war coming to a close, he demanded and obtained permission to return to his home, provided he abstained from interfering in the affairs of Lebanon.

His first act, however, was to assassinate with his own hands, at his own house, his cousin, Sheik Negim, and his brother, for some property, and it was with difficulty they saved the children of the deceased from his vengeance, whom he endeavoured to kill also; and his second act, that of exciting secretly both the Druses and the Christians against the present Government. His cousin, Sheik Negim, was the first Druse noble who declared in favour of the Sultan, and so took up arms in defence of his cause.

Emir Enin Raslan defended warmly the interests of Mehemet Ali, and only submitted after the surrender of the Ex-Emir. His constant intrigues, however, brought him often into disgrace, for, as he had assisted in putting to death the father of the present Prince, he always dreaded the consequences of his vengeance. I interfered in his favour at the request of the Druses, procured him his liberation and the pardon of the Prince, who even restored to him some villages that were confiscated by his predecessor.

Sheik Talhook is a staunch adherent of the Ex-Emir, by whom he was employed, and having no means of his own wherewithal to subsist, he has shewn great determination ever since the termination of the war, to create confusion and disorder in the country, which afford him pretexts for dispossessing others of their property.

I had also to solicit his liberation from prison of his Excellency Selim Pasha, at the request of the Emir Beshir, who thought by such acts of moderation, he could conciliate the Druses to the change of Government.

His Excellency Nejib Pasha, communicated to me a letter from the Druse Chief Shibli-el-Arian, wherein he states, that the Sheik Naaman had written to him to repair with all his cavalry to his support, but that he had refused to accede to the proposal, until he received his Excellency's authority.

I have just received intelligence that the Arabs and the Druses of the Ledje are fighting together.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

## Inclosure in No. 69.

*Extract of letter communicated to Mr. Wood by the Russian Consul at Beyrout.*

*Beyrout, 16 Octobre, 1841.*

PAR ma lettre du 2, du même j'eus l'honneur de vous annoncer qu'une querelle venait de s'engager à Deir-el-Kammar, entre les Chrétiens et les Druses, je m'empresse maintenant de vous en communiquer les détails que j'ai pu recueillir. Il paraît certain que les Druses préméditaient cette querelle depuis deux mois au moins ; ils entraient à Deir-el-Kammar de cinq individus jusqu'à dix, et se cachaient dans quelques maisons Druses qu'il y a. Quand ils se sont réunis au nombre de trois cents, un d'entr'eux est allé provoquer une discussion avec un Chrétien, et c'est de là que la querelle a son commencement. Dans peu d'heures Deir-el-Kammar s'est trouvée cernée par deux mille cinq cents Druses, commandés par Sheik Naaman Djinblat, Sheik Abuneked, (ce dernier est blessé et a perdu son fils,) et d'autres Sheiks. Le combat a duré jusqu'avant-hier, et les Chrétiens de Deir-el-Kammar, quoiqu'en petit nombre, ont fait une très forte résistance. Plusieurs Sheiks Druses ont été tués. Tous les chemins qui conduisent à Deir-el-Kammar sont occupés par les Druses.

Le Colonel Rose s'est rendu avec Ayoub Pacha chez l'Emir Béchir, qui se trouve à Deir-el-Kammar, pour mettre le bon ordre ; ils ont été arrêtés par les Chrétiens à Hadet, mais l'Emir Melkem est venu les mettre en liberté, et les fit accompagner par son fils jusqu'à En Ainoub, où l'Emir Emin Raslan, avec un détachement de Druses, occupaient le chemin qui conduit à Deir-el-Kammar. Ils y sont restés trois jours, et ne sont allés à Deir-el-Kammar, que quand l'Emir Melkem engagea l'Emir Emin de se retirer à Chouifat, lui promettant s'il refusait, de brûler sa maison. L'Emir Emin s'est retiré de suite. Le Colonel, avant son départ, a engagé M. Bourrée d'aller avec lui, mais ce dernier s'est refusé.

Le Prince de la Montagne a écrit une lettre très forte au Seraskir, par laquelle il demande des troupes pour battre les Druses. Le Seraskir s'est borné à lui répondre qu'il ne peut rien faire avant de connaître le résultat des efforts d'Ayoub Pacha.

Enfin, aujourd'hui nous apprenons que les Druses acceptent à faire la paix, et que les Chrétiens ne veulent la faire qu'à condition que leurs ennemis leur remettent toutes leurs armes. En attendant, toute la Montagne fait des préparatifs, et les Montagnards se rendent de tous côtés auprès de l'Emir Melkem, qui attend à Baabda l'Emir Haidar, pour aller battre les Druses.

L'Emir Ahmed Raslan et Sheik Talhook sont arrêtés chez l'Emir Béchir. Un Sheik Druse qui, se trouvant aussi chez le Prince lors du commencement du combat, et ayant essayé de s'enfuir, a été fusillé par le Prince.

Quatre villages Druses ont été brûlés par le fils de l'Emir Melkem, et par Abusumra. Les Druses aussi, en partant de Deir-el-Kammar, ont brûlé cinq maisons Chrétiennes.

(Translation.)

*Beyrout, October 16, 1841.*

IN my letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> of this month, I had the honour to announce to you that a quarrel had just commenced at Deir-el-Kammar between the Christians and the Druses, and I now hasten to furnish to you such particulars as I have been able to collect. It appears certain that the Druses have been premeditating this quarrel for two months at least ; they have been entering Deir-el-Kammar in groups of from five to ten persons at a time, and they concealed themselves in some Druse houses which are there. When they had assembled to the number of three hundred, one of them went and provoked a discussion with a Christian and it was thus that the quarrel began. In a few hours Deir-el-Kammar was surrounded by 2,500 Druses, headed by Sheik Naaman Djinblat, Sheik Abuneked, (the latter is wounded and has lost his son,) and other Sheiks. The battle lasted till the day before yesterday, and the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar, though in small numbers, made a strong resistance. Many Druse

Sheiks have been killed. All the roads leading to Deir-el-Kammar are occupied by the Druses.

Colonel Rose, in company with Aynoub Pasha, went to the Emir Beshir, who was at Deir-el-Kammar, in order to restore tranquillity; they were stopped by the Christians at Hadda, but the Emir Melkem came and set them at liberty, and made his son accompany them as far as Ainanoob, where the Emir Emin Raslan, with a detachment of Druses, was occupying the road which leads to Deir-el-Kammar. There they stopped three days, and did not go on to Deir-el-Kammar until the Emir Melkem had persuaded the Emir Emin to retire to Shoofaat, promising that if he refused he would burn his house. The Emir Emin retired in consequence. The Colonel before his departure proposed to M. Bourrée to go along with him, but the latter refused.

The Prince of the Mountain has written a very strong letter to the Seraskier, in which he asks for troops to fight the Druses. The Seraskier contented himself with answering him that he can do nothing until he knows the result of Aynoub Pasha's efforts.

In short, we have heard to day that the Druses agree to make peace, and that the Christians will not make peace except on condition that their enemies will give up to them all their arms. In the meanwhile, preparations are making throughout the Mountain, and the mountaineers are assembling from all sides round the Emir Melkem, who waits at Baabda the arrival of the Emir Haidar in order to fight the Druses.

The Emir Ahmed Raslan and Sheik Talkook have stopped at the Emir Beshir's. A Druse Sheik, who was in the Prince's house at the commencement of the fight and who attempted to run off, was shot by the Prince.

Four Druse villages have been burnt by the son of the Emir Melkem and by Abusurara. The Druses also, on leaving Deir-el-Kammar, burnt five Christian houses.

#### No. 70.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, October 25, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that on the 23rd instant I received a communication from the Melkite Bishop Basilios, and a letter from the inhabitants of Zahlé, acquainting me with the late disorders in Mount Lebanon, and requesting me in consequence, to press on his Excellency Nejib Pasha the expediency of recalling Shibli-el-Arian from Hasbeya, to prevent him from increasing them by the countenance he gives the Druses of Lebanon, of the Haouran, and of the Ledgea. They further stated that the Druses had burnt the village of Sagbin, and had killed 200 of the inhabitants, including women and children, and begged that, as the property pillaged at Deir-el-Kammar, amounting to seventy mules' loads, had been sent to Shibli-el-Arian, to be secreted by him at a place called Mougara, in the Haouran, I would suggest such steps to his Excellency as would facilitate its recovery.

On the same day I received intelligence that the Turks of Zebedani, a small town seven leagues distant from hence, had burnt, with the assistance of some Druse cavalry, the Greek church of that place, and had threatened to massacre the Greeks and to carry their women and children into slavery.

In the evening I was invited by the Greek Patriarch to meet the Russian, French, and Greek Consuls at his palace, with which request I complied, and found the prelate in the greatest consternation lest the Turks of Damascus should be encouraged to follow the example of those of Zebedani, pillage and burn the churches, and massacre the Christians.

In order to remove the agitation and appease the fears of the Christian communities of this city, it was agreed upon that we should pay a friendly visit to the Pasha, it being Ramazan; inform him in the course of conversation, of what had occurred; and suggest to his Excellency the propriety of issuing orders for the immediate arrest of the incendiaries, of recalling Shibli-el-Arian, to quiet the apprehensions of the peasantry, of prohibiting the public sale of arms and ammunition, of releasing Emir Said-el-Deen, to restore confidence, and of

sending a battalion of regular infantry to Marge, in the plains of the Bekaa, to intimidate either party from committing further disorders.

Nejib Pasha, who received us with great courtesy, readily acceded to the foregoing suggestions, with the exception of the liberation of the Emir, respecting whom his Excellency asserted he was hourly expecting instructions from his Government.

No 71.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, November 2, 1841.*

A FEW weeks ago, some mountaineers of respectable connections were imprisoned at Damascus, under the false accusation of having murdered a soldier.

The Emir Beshir, the Patriarch, and others, having applied to me to procure their liberation, I advised Nejib Pasha to accede to their petition, which his Excellency readily did, in the hope that it would be agreeable to the Lebanites.

The Patriarch, in thanking me for my compliance with his request, has sent me also an account of the proceedings of the Druses against the Christians, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, under No. 1, and desires me at the same time to interfere in arranging their differences, and establishing harmony between them.

I have addressed a letter to Nejib Pasha, and another to the Seraskier, (copies of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, under Nos. 2 and 3,) conveying to their Excellencies sundry observations respecting the present civil war, and the conduct it would be advisable they should pursue with regard to both parties.

The Seraskier's position has become one of great perplexity, for while the Emir Beshir, as one of the first officers of the Sultan in Syria, is entitled to his protection and assistance, he does not feel himself strong enough to march to his support, and relieve him from the state of siege in which he is, lest by such an overt measure he should have to oppose the adverse party without having positively the means of overcoming them; and, to expose the Sultan's troops to a defeat in the centre of the Mountains, would be too encouraging an incident not to be availed of by the generality of the Syrians, to show their discontent by an open revolt.

From the information I have received, I am led to infer that the Turkish Authorities entertain the project of removing the Emir Beshir from the government of Mount Lebanon, and of replacing him by a Turkish officer. Although the embarrassing position of both parties may oblige them to overlook, for the moment, such a glaring infringement of their rights, yet so soon as they overcome their present difficulties, they would unite in expelling the intruder, which act would, by compromising the dignity of the Sultan, occasion perhaps hostilities between them and the authorities, which are very far from being in a condition to cope with the Mountaineers with any hope of success.

The uneasiness which the proceedings of Shibli-el-Arian caused, and the report that after he had disarmed the Christians of Hasbeya and Rashaya, he intended to proceed to Zahlé, in Lebanon, for the same purpose, in consequence of secret orders he had from Nejib Pasha, induced me to address his Excellency to remind him that the Sultan had promised the Mountaineers the enjoyment of their personal liberty and rights, and that he was not justified in executing a partial measure against a particular portion of his Highness's subjects, particularly at this critical moment, when all was confusion and disorder, and the Syrians had lost their confidence in the Government, which they knew also to be without the means of enforcing obedience, or of compelling them to submission.

I was the more induced to write in the above sense to the Pasha, from the intimate conviction that his Excellency was persuaded to adopt unseasonable and impolitic measures by some members of his own Government who had an interest in bringing about a reaction in the country,—an event which might lead to the ultimate expulsion of the Turks, for their small force is but barely sufficient to do the common duties of the garrisoned towns, and they are besides without the means of transport, without stores and without money.

S 2

Under such circumstances, I have thought it my duty to advise the Pasha to use moderation, and endeavour rather to conciliate than to add to the irritation of the people.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 71.

*The Maronite Patriarch to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

October 20, 1841.

AT a happy moment, I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 15th instant, from which I have learnt with satisfaction the success of your efforts in behalf of the Sheiks Abou Hatem, whose liberation you have procured, and who have since returned happily to their homes. I have also inferred from it your exertions in favour of Emir Said-el-Deen, which correspond to the hope we entertain of your zeal. We solicit of the Almighty the continuation of your perseverance in behalf of our good, and of your assistance in favour of the great and small.

You must have received ere this intelligence of the late occurrences, but we refer you, nevertheless, to the accompanying inclosure, and may God preserve you in peace and happiness, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) YUSSUF HABESH.

SINCE you cannot but be acquainted with the designs and machinations of the Druses against the Christians, any explanation thereon becomes superfluous. For some time past, they have concerted plans that had for object the humiliation and degradation of the Christians that lived amongst them, whom they wished to assault, without leaving the local authority the means, however, of coming to their succour, that they may govern themselves and do exactly what they pleased.

They, in consequence, availed themselves of the visit of the Prince to Deir-el-Kammar to put their meditated plans into execution, in the hope that the moment had arrived for the destruction of his Excellency, and of the inhabitants of that place. On the 13th instant, therefore, at six o'clock in the morning, they made a sudden attack upon Deir-el-Kammar, headed by their Sheiks—the Prince and the inhabitants being unconscious of their intention—and commenced pillaging and killing indiscriminately the men, women, and children, in the streets, in the khans and bazaars, until the Christians could rally and defend themselves.

The Druses that reside at Deir-el-Kammar, and the Sheiks of the house of Abuneked, had assembled previously, and in secret, a great number of their countrymen in their houses. These began at once to destroy and pillage the houses of the Christians situated among them, massacring all they met, breaking into the storehouses, which they burnt, after carrying away the property and effects of the merchants.

The war continued to rage from one o'clock on Wednesday to twelve o'clock on Saturday, the 16th instant, when his Excellency Ayoub Pasha arrived at Deir-el-Kammar. The firing then ceased, but each party kept its position. Soon after, a portion of the Druses surrounded the town, taking possession of the roads, to prevent any succour from reaching the besieged, and the remainder attacked the neighbouring villages, which they burnt, after putting to death the inhabitants that fell into their hands. They have continued to act in this manner to the present moment.

The rest of the Christians, hearing what had befallen their countrymen, have assembled to go to their assistance, to rescue them from the hands of their oppressors. The affair is assuming consistency, and is becoming greater and greater every day.

The Druses are using their utmost efforts to carry through their plans and evil designs, with which fact it is necessary we should acquaint you, in the firm hope that you will readily assist in averting this catastrophe, either by writing to them direct, or by employing such other means as you may judge proper.

We trust greatly in your unceasing perseverance and exertions, and in the power and influence of the Sublime Porte. May God grant her prosperity to turn aside this evil from us.

(L. S.)

(Signed) Y. H.

Inclosure 2 in No. 71.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Selim Pasha.*

Excellence,

*Damas, 28 Octobre, 1841, (13 Ramazan, 1257.)*

LA confiance que votre Excellence m'a témoignée toujours dans les affaires de la Syrie, m'encourage à vous adresser la présente sur le sujet de la guerre civile entre les Druses et les Chrétiens du Mont Liban. Je vous avoue, Excellence, que je considère cette malheureuse guerre comme l'événement le plus désastreux qui pourrait arriver en ce moment-ci en Syrie, et beaucoup plus important encore que la guerre contre les Egyptiens, puisque la première avait pour but la restitution de ces provinces à la Sublime Porte, celle-ci pourrait bien avoir des conséquences funestes à ses intérêts.

Or, puisque ma position actuelle ne me permet pas de me rendre auprès de vous, je prends la liberté de soumettre à la considération de votre Excellence quelques observations, en peu de mots, que je suis sûr, mon Général, vous n'attribuerez qu'à mon sincère attachement et estime que je porte à votre personne.

1°. Cette guerre civile me paraît avoir été préméditée depuis deux mois par un des partis. Nous devons donc croire que tous leurs plans sont faits, et qu'ils ont bien pris toutes leurs mesures en conséquence. Pour mieux m'expliquer, c'est une affaire bien organisée et d'une étendue bien grande, puisque ses ramifications s'étendent au sud et à l'est de la Syrie. Si elles ne se sont pas développées encore, c'est parcequ'elles n'étaient pas arrivées à un point de maturité parfaite.

2°. L'opiniâtreté avec laquelle les Chrétiens tâcheront de maintenir leur position et leur ascendant dans le Mont Liban prolongera cette guerre civile, ce qui fournira l'occasion aux ennemis des intérêts de la Sublime Porte de détruire à jamais l'autorité Turque dans ces provinces.

3°. Tout le pays étant dans un état presque d'insubordination avec une force trop petite pour inspirer de la crainte aux Syriens, je crois qu'il est prudent de tenir cette petite force désengagée pour des éventualités qui pourraient bien survenir sous peu. Par conséquent, il ne faut pas s'unir trop à la hâte et sans une nécessité absolue, à aucune des parties belligérantes. Cette neutralité aussi mettra votre Excellence dans une position plus avantageuse pour médier entr'elles plus efficacement.

4°. En vous unissant à un des partis ouvertement, il est probable que la partie adverse usera toute son énergie et tous ses moyens de défense, et si jamais les troupes Turques venaient à éprouver un échec au centre de ces montagnes, il est sûr que les Syriens, encouragés par ce fait, démontreraient leur mécontentement par une insurrection générale. Vos moyens de coercition seraient alors insuffisants, et l'argent et le matériel de guerre vous manquent totalement.

J'entends aussi que votre Excellence a engagé l'Emir Béchir à se rendre à Beyrouth pour la sûreté de sa personne, et que vous vous proposez de le remplacer par Ali Pacha. Il est probable que l'Emir se refusera dans les circonstances actuelles, de quitter le poste que Sa Hautesse le Sultan a bien voulu lui confier. Dans ce cas, comme un officier de la Sublime Porte, il a le droit de réclamer votre assistance dans les intérêts même de votre Gouvernement; et il faut que votre Excellence prenne en mûre considération que les Montagnards en général ne permettront jamais qu'un Pacha gouverne le Liban, ce qui serait contraire à leurs anciens privilèges, que la Sublime Porte a bien voulu confirmer tout récemment. Or, ils pourront bien s'opposer à l'installation d'Ali Pacha, et s'ils l'attaqueront ou l'expulseront de la Montagne, la dignité de la Sublime Porte serait alors compromise, et cette guerre civile pourrait bien changer de nature, et produire des hostilités entre les autorités locales et les Syriens.

Dans la conviction que votre Excellence attribuera la liberté que je viens de prendre, au vif intérêt que je porte à votre personne, et ma sollicitude pour le bien-être et la tranquillité de ce pays, veuillez bien, Excellence, agréer, &c.

(L.S.)

(Signé)

RICHARD WOOD.



(Translation.)

Damascus, October 28, 1841,

Excellency,

(13 Ramazan, 1257.)

THE confidence which your Excellency has always placed in me on the subject of Syrian affairs, encourages me to address you this letter respecting the civil war between the Druses and Christians of Mount Lebanon. I confess to your Excellency that I consider this unhappy war as one of the most disastrous events which could have occurred at the present moment in Syria, and as of much more importance than the war against the Egyptians, inasmuch as the former was to restore these provinces to the Sublime Porte, whilst the latter may very possibly have consequences fatal to her interests.

Consequently, as my present position does not allow me to go to you, I take the liberty of submitting to your Excellency's consideration, some observations, shortly put, which I feel confident, mon General, that you will only attribute to my sincere attachment and esteem for you personally.

1°. This civil war seems to me to have been premeditated for two months by one of the parties. We are therefore entitled to think that all their plans are made, and that they have taken all their measures in consequence. To speak plainer, it is a well-organized affair, and one of great extent, inasmuch as its ramifications extend to the south and east of Syria. If they have not yet been developed, it is because they had not arrived at a point of perfect maturity.

2°. The obstinacy with which the Christians will endeavour to maintain their position and their ascendancy in Mount Lebanon will prolong this civil war, which will furnish the opponents of the interests of the Sublime Porte with an opportunity of destroying for ever the Turkish authority in these provinces.

3°. The whole country being in a state almost amounting to insubordination, with a military force too small to be the least cause of fear to the Syrians, I think that it would be prudent to keep this small force disengaged for contingencies which possibly may shortly occur. Consequently it is not expedient to join with too much haste, and without absolute necessity, either of the belligerent parties. This neutrality would also place your Excellency in a more advantageous position for mediating with effect between them.

4°. By openly joining one of the parties, it is probable that the party opposed to it will act with its utmost energy and use every means of defence; and if ever the Turkish troops should chance to meet with a check in the centre of the Mountain, it is certain that the Syrians, encouraged by the fact, would disclose their discontent by a general insurrection. Your means of coercion would then be insufficient, and you are totally without funds or military stores.

I hear also that your Excellency has called upon the Emir Beshir to go to Beyrout for the safety of his person, and that you propose to replace him by Ali Pasha. It is probable that, in the actual state of affairs, the Emir will refuse to quit the post which his Highness the Sultan has been pleased to confide to him. In that case, as an officer of the Sublime Porte he has a right to call upon you for assistance even for the sake of the interests of your Government; and your Excellency must also take into mature consideration the fact that the Mountaineers in general will never allow a Pasha to govern the Lebanon, which would be contrary to their ancient privileges which the Sublime Porte has quite lately been pleased to confirm. For these reasons, it is very probable that they would oppose the installation of Ali Pasha, and were they to attack him and drive him out of the Mountain, the dignity of the Sublime Porte would be compromised, and this civil war would easily alter its nature and give rise to hostilities between the local authorities and the Syrians.

In the conviction that your Excellency will ascribe the liberty which I have now taken, to the warm interest which I feel for you, and to my anxiety for the prosperity and tranquillity of this country,

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.



Inclosure 3 in No. 71.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Nejib Pasha.*

Damas, 30 Octobre, 1841,

(15 Ramazan, 1257.)

Excellence,

JE viens d'apprendre avec grande peine que Shibli-el-Arian a cru à propos de prendre les armes des Chrétiens de Hasbeya, et qu'il se proposait aussi d'enlever celles des habitans de Rasheya, et de Zahlé, petite ville du Mont Liban, et que pas plus tard qu'avant-hier on lui avait expédié des munitions de guerre de cette ville.

Après la promesse de votre Excellence de faire rappeler Shibli-el-Arian de Hasbeya, il m'est impossible de croire que cet individu est à agir d'après vos ordres, malgré qu'il dit publiquement qu'il est dûment autorisé de mettre en exécution cette mesure.

Nonobstant, je manquerais à mon devoir vis-à-vis la Sublime Porte, qui a bien voulu me charger de veiller à l'exécution de quelques arrangemens relativement à ce pays, et vis-à-vis la personne de votre Excellence, si dans des circonstances si critiques, je m'abstenais de soumettre à la considération de votre Excellence les observations suivantes dans les intérêts même du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse Impériale.

Quoique je suis convaincu que Shibli-el-Arian n'est point autorisé d'agir de la manière indiquée ci-dessus, cependant comme il a publié qu'il a des ordres pour les mesures qu'il vient de prendre, et que votre Excellence a été informée à tems de ses plans secrets, sans vouloir y prêter aucune foi, il est certain que la généralité des Syriens doivent croire que ses actes proviennent du Gouvernement local même.

L'effet que produira cette idée, vraie ou fausse, dans l'esprit du public est trop évident pour demander aucun éclaircissement de ma part, excepté qu'en augmentant la méfiance du peuple, il sera plus porté à s'unir aux perturbateurs de la tranquillité publique pour former une opposition plus générale et plus systématique.

Dans la presque insubordination dans laquelle se trouve ce pays, peut-être que la modération et la préservation seules des droits et privilèges des Syriens pourraient-elles les ramener au bon ordre et à l'obéissance.

Sur ce sujet votre Excellence me permettra de dire que, chargé de la part de Sa Hautesse Impériale le Sultan, au commencement de la guerre, de faire rentrer les Syriens dans la voie de l'obéissance, je fus chargé en même tems de leur promettre la jouissance complète de leur liberté personnelle, et de leurs anciens droits et privilèges, comme prix de leurs services militaires. Or, l'enlèvement des armes des habitans de Hasbeya, Rasheya, et de Zahlé, dans le Liban et Anti-Liban, est un attentat contre leur liberté et leurs privilèges, et par conséquent en opposition directe avec les promesses formelles que j'ai faites au nom de Sa Hautesse Impériale.

Ce seul fait servira de preuve aux habitans du Mont Liban combien ils doivent se méfier des promesses qui leur ont été faites par les agens de la Sublime Porte; ce qui leur servira de règle à l'avenir; et je laisse à votre Excellence de juger si, dans des circonstances si critiques, pendant que l'anarchie règne, et au moment qu'une guerre civile vient d'éclater, il convient aux intérêts de la Sublime Porte d'augmenter la méfiance des Syriens,—de rendre leur opposition plus opiniâtre,—et d'ajouter à leurs malheurs en les poussant au bout.

Il pourra bien en résulter que cette guerre change de nature et qu'elle traîne des hostilités entre les Syriens et le Gouvernement local. Dans une pareille éventualité, quelles sont les forces disponibles que les Autorités Turques puissent opposer à une population entière? Elles n'existent pas, puisqu'il est certain que le peu de troupes qui se trouvent dans ces provinces, à peine suffisent-elles pour la garnison de quelques villes. En outre, l'argent et les moyens de transport manquent totalement.

Il me semble, donc, Excellence, que l'anarchie qui règne dans ce moment, suffit, sans que le Gouvernement se crée des nouvelles difficultés, auxquelles il ne pourra pas porter de remède; et que s'il désire vraiment d'établir l'ordre, qu'il pourra bien commencer à mettre ses louables intentions en exécution en empê-

chant la destruction des villages et des endroits de culte à peu de pas de Damas.

Le désarmement complet des Syriens serait à désirer si cette mesure pouvait s'effectuer sans crainte d'une insurrection générale, mais cette mesure n'est que partielle, et n'est dirigée que contre les Chrétiens du Liban et Anti-Liban, tandis qu'il est permis aux autres sujets de la Sublime Porte de retenir leurs armes. Pourtant il ne faut pas oublier que la Sublime Porte, ayant reconnu la loyauté et la fidélité de ses sujets Chrétiens de ces mêmes contrées, s'est adressée à eux en premier lieu, en leur fournissant des armes pour chasser l'ennemi commun; et l'occupation actuelle de la Syrie par les troupes de Sa Hautesse Impériale, est en soi-même un fait qui les rend dignes de la bienveillante considération de votre Excellence.

(L.S.)

Veuillez, &c.,  
(Signé) RICHARD WOOD.

(Translation.)

*Damascus, October 30, 1841.*

Excellency,

(15 Ramazan, 1257.)

I HAVE just heard with much regret that Shibli-el-Arian has thought fit to take the arms of the Christians of Hasbeya, and that he proposed also to take away the arms of the inhabitants of Rasheya and of Zahlé, a small town of Mount Lebanon, and that not further back than the day before yesterday, military stores have been dispatched to him from this town.

After your Excellency's promise to recal Shibli-el-Arian from Hasbeya, I cannot believe that this individual is acting by your orders, although he publicly announces that he is duly authorized to put this measure into execution.

Nevertheless, I should be failing in my duty towards the Sublime Porte, who has been pleased to entrust me with watching over the execution of certain arrangements respecting this country, ~~and also towards your Excellency,~~ if in this critical state of circumstances, I should refrain from submitting for your Excellency's consideration, the following observations concerning even the interests of the Government of His Imperial Highness.

Although I am convinced that Shibli-el-Arian is not authorized to act in the manner above pointed out, yet, as he has proclaimed that he has instructions for the steps which he has lately taken, and that your Excellency was informed in time of his secret plans, without being disposed to attach any credit to the story, there can be no doubt that the greater number of the Syrians must believe that these acts originate with the local Government itself.

The effect that such an idea, whether true or false, is calculated to produce on public opinion, is too evident to call for any explanation on my part, except this, that in increasing the distrust of the people, the latter will be more likely to unite itself with the disturbers of public tranquillity, in order to form a more general and more systematic opposition.

In the almost complete insubordination in which this country at present is, it is probable that moderation, and the preservation of the rights and privileges of the Syrians, are alone capable of bringing the people back into a state of order and obedience.

On this subject your Excellency will allow me to say, that having been charged on the part of his Imperial Highness the Sultan, at the commencement of the war, with the duty of bringing back the Syrians to the paths of obedience, I was at the same time authorized to promise them the complete enjoyment of their personal liberty, and of their ancient rights and privileges, as the reward of their military services. Now, the taking away the arms of the inhabitants of Hasbeya, Rasheya, and Zahlé, in the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, is an infringement of their liberty and privileges; and, consequently, is in direct opposition to the formal promises which I made in the name of his Imperial Highness.

This fact alone will suffice to prove to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon how much they should distrust the promises made to them by the Agents of the

Sublime Porte; and it will serve them as a rule in future; and I leave it to your Excellency to judge whether, in such critical circumstances, whilst a state of anarchy prevails, and when a civil war has just broken out, it is for the interests of the Sublime Porte to increase the distrust of the Syrians, to render their opposition more obstinate, and to add to their misfortunes by driving them to extremities.

It is very possible that the result will be that this war will change its nature, and will produce hostilities between the Syrians and the local government. In such a contingency, what are the disposable forces which the Turkish authorities could oppose to the entire population? There are none such in existence, for it is certain that the few troops which are in these provinces, are scarcely sufficient to supply garrisons to a few towns. Further, money and means of transport are entirely deficient.

It seems to me then, Excellency, that there is enough of disorder at present in existence, without the Government creating new difficulties, for which it can provide no remedies; and that if it is really desirous of establishing order, it would be well if it would commence the execution of its benevolent intentions by preventing the destruction of villages and places of worship at a short distance from Damascus.

The complete disarming of the Syrians would be desirable if it could be effected without fear of a general insurrection, but the present measure is only a partial one, and is merely directed against the Christians of the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, whilst the other subjects of the Sublime Porte are allowed to retain their arms. Yet it should not be forgotten that the Sublime Porte, acknowledging the loyalty and fidelity of her Christian subjects in these countries, addressed herself to them in the first instance, supplying them with arms wherewith to drive out the common enemy; and the present occupation of Syria by the troops of His Imperial Highness is of itself a fact which makes them worthy of the benevolent consideration of your Excellency.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 72.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, November 3, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have this day received a letter from the notables of Zahlé, stating that the intention of the Druse Chief Shibli-el-Arian was to attack and disarm them, and requesting to know whether this individual was or was not duly authorized to proceed to acts of violence by the Government, that they may take their measures accordingly.

I sent immediately an extract of their letter to Nejib Pasha, with a request to be made acquainted, if possible, with his Excellency's secret instructions to Shibli-el-Arian to enable me to answer their letter, and either advise them to submit to him in case his proceedings were in consequence of his orders, or to put them on their guard.

His Excellency replied, that "although Shibli-el-Arian had been intrusted with a certain service, yet he had been committing acts of violence,—had been acting in opposition to his instructions, and had refused to obey the order that was transmitted to him to return to Damascus; and that, as he was not authorized to proceed to Zahlé to disarm the people, they were free to repel him by force should he proceed to acts of violence against them."

From this reply it is evident his Excellency considers Shibli-el-Arian a rebel, a character which his wanton attack and pillage of the village of Megdel, distant a few hours from hence, fully confirms.

I have repeatedly put the Pasha on his guard against this individual when he was still in Damascus and his arrest was easy, but his Excellency attributed my advice to any but the proper motives that induced me to give it, and continued to employ him until his acts at Rasheya, Hasbeya, and Megdel, undeceived his Excellency respecting him.

The intention of this individual is to attack Zahlé and disarm the Christians,

and to proceed from hence to join the Druses in Lebanon, to take possession of it, as he says, before the Franks do. The greater part of his cavalry are already in the Mountains with his cousin Sheik Ali.

The revolt of Shibli-el-Arian is greatly to be regretted, for his influence is such among the Druses of the Haouran and of the Ledgea, that he will find no difficulty in inducing them to follow his example, the same as he did heretofore in the time of Ibrahim Pasha, twenty-five thousand of whose troops he destroyed in the impenetrable fastnesses of the Ledgea.

His party will acquire strength by the accession to it of all the freebooters, and their marauding excursions will become henceforth a terror to the country and an impediment to all free communication, unless, indeed Nejib Pasha adopts such speedy and effective measures as may lead at once to his arrest before he retires into the Haouran.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 73.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

My Lord,

Damascus, November 4, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, translation of a petition of the Druses to the Sultan, praying that one of their own nation may be appointed chief over them in accordance with their ancient usages.

They assign three causes for their demand;—that being of the Mahometan creed, they cannot submit to be governed by a Christian;—that the Christians are endeavouring to divert them from their allegiance to the Sublime Porte, and place them under foreign protection;—and that the Emir has not the same consideration for them that his predecessor had.

The history of the Druses does not shew that they ever enjoyed the privilege of having a Druse Governor independent of the Governor-General of Mount Lebanon, but it is correct that the Ex-Prince had delegated at one time Sheik Beshir Djinblat to administer their affairs under him, whom, however, he caused to be put to death afterwards for his treachery.

Their petition was sent to Constantinople by Nejib Pasha on the 20th of October last, but I am told that the Maronites have transmitted also a Fetwa, (legal sentence of the Turkish law,) proving that the Druses, as an idolatrous race, cannot be considered Mahometans, and praying, therefore, that the Sublime Porte will not divide the Government of the Mountains, which will give rise to endless disputes and hostilities between them.

It has been suspected for some time past that the Druses entertained the project of establishing a principality of their own, which suspicions are now confirmed, in some degree, by their asking an Imperial Firman for the appointment of a chief of their own, together with the establishment of a fixed tribute to be paid annually by them.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 73.

*Petition of the Druse Nation to the Sultan.*

SHEWETH, that in consequence of our nation being composed of people of Islam, we, as well as all our fathers and forefathers, were indispensably so under allegiance to the Sublime Porte, from which we have never departed, until the year of the Hejira 1241 (A.D. 1825). Sheik Beshir Djinblat, one of the principal chiefs of our nation, who had "word" over us all, and Sheik Ali Amad, and Sheik Ahmed Abuneked, were the two persons delegated by our nation, who had influence over us, and by whose opinion, means, and alliance, our affairs were conducted. Through them we enjoyed tranquillity, consideration and security; but previous to the present epoch, and during the administration of Ab-

dullah Pasha, Governor of Saïda, they, the aforementioned, were put to death by his order. He then charged the Emir Beshir, one of the Chiefs of the Christian nation, formerly Governor of Mount Lebanon, but now deposed, with the administration and arrangement of our affairs, and with the care of governing us. This Emir was originally a Mussulman, but became afterwards a Christian. He passed, however, for a Mussulman, and concealed from us his being a Christian; nevertheless, there is no doubt but what he was a Christian in reality; notwithstanding which he held us in greater esteem and consideration than the Christians, and he administered our affairs to the period of his removal.

The present Emir Beshir, actually Governor of Mount Lebanon, is a Christian, and treats us with contempt and humiliation; and the object always of his scorn and machinations is to force us to become Christians. This is his fixed desire in our regard.

It is impossible for your slaves to endure any longer the conduct of the above-mentioned Emir, or the behaviour of the Christians, and their evil doings against us. The object of the aforesaid is to divert us from our allegiance and submission to the Sublime Porte, and put us under the protection of Foreign Powers; but it is impossible that we should accede to it, for we will not depart from our allegiance to the Sublime Porte, which is our benefactress, neither will we absolutely place ourselves under the protection of Foreign Governments, though we should have to forego all our people, our children, and our families, particularly as our nation was always, up to the present time, more honoured, respected, privileged, and considered, than the Christians. How is it possible, then, that we should be now, under their orders, despised and humbled? This is unbecoming for us; neither will the Sublime Porte permit it; for from time immemorial our fathers and forefathers were her subjects, we are also her slaves, and she is our benefactress.

We, therefore, represent that we your slaves are Mussulmans, and subjects of the Turkish Government, to which we have ever submitted, nor will we ever consent to be under the Christians, to whom we will never submit, or obey their commands; but we beg and solicit of the Sublime Porte (may God grant her victory) to be graciously pleased to appoint one of our own nation chief over us, the same as it was previously, in the days of Sheik Beshir Djinblat, that he may administer our affairs and our wants according to the Imperial regulations, and that this should be by royal berat (firman), as an honour and as a privilege to us. This we solicit of our Government.

We promise to pay the tribute and taxes that will be fixed by the royal will, according to the "Tanzimati-el-Hairiyé" (new system of taxation), in proportion to our lands and property and means, relying on the justice and moderation of the Sublime Porte in regard to us her subjects.

The Petition which was presented before from the inhabitants of Lebanon collectively to the Sublime Porte, praying that the amount of tribute to be paid by the Mountain may not exceed the sum paid during the time of Abdullah Pasha, Ex-Valy, and to which we had affixed our names and seals, as well as the compact entered into between us and them [between the Druses and Christians], are null and void, for we were induced to sign it temporarily.

In brief, we are Mussulmans, and it is impossible for us to forego our allegiance to the Sublime Porte, at all times and under any circumstances. It is true that the Christians are more numerous than ourselves, but by the grace of God, and by the aid of the Sublime Porte, we have always conquered them in all our wars, which is proved by our former wars with them. We now solicit in consequence, and pray that this our Petition may be graciously granted to your slaves before enmity and war take place between us and them, &c. &c.

#### No. 74.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, November 4, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, herewith, a copy of the summary report on the general state of affairs in Syria, which I have transmitted to his Excellency Rifaat Pasha, Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In a visit his Excellency Nejib Pasha did me the honour to pay me, I

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alluded to the disorder and dissatisfaction that appeared to me to exist in the south of Syria, particularly in the mountains of Nablous, which I attributed to the unpopular nomination of Mohamed Effendi, of the family of Abdul Hadi, to the Governorship of that district. His Excellency endeavoured to excuse himself by pretending to have been ignorant of the circumstances connected with the name of that family, and led me to believe that he would recall Mahmoud Effendi, one of the uncles, to Damascus, to be answerable for the conduct of his relatives, and to appease, in some degree, the anger of the peasantry.

I was, therefore, not a little surprised to learn yesterday, that instead of recalling him, his Excellency has thought fit to appoint him Governor, in the room of his nephew, Mohamed Effendi. It is supposed that the Pasha has received a large sum of money from that family, and that he cannot, in consequence, do otherwise than give his support to the different members of it.

The Anzarien mountains of Kébié, between Hamah and Latakia, have revolted. Fifteen hundred regular troops have been sent in that direction, but from the inaccessible nature of the country, it is not supposed they will make any attempt to penetrate into the interior.

The difficulty of collecting the revenue has induced the Local Government to recall from Hamah, Homs, and other places, the muhassils (revenue collectors), and to join this department to the functions of the Military Governors, a measure which will facilitate the public business, at the same time that it is economical.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

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Inclosure in No. 74.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Rifaat Pasha.*

Excellence,

*Damas, 18 Octobre, 1841.*

TOUJOURS prêt à répondre à la sollicitude de votre Excellence pour le bien-être de la Syrie, je me fais un véritable devoir de signaler quelques points concernant les affaires de ce pays, qui demandent la considération de la Sublime Porte.

J'ai eu l'honneur de prévenir votre Excellence du mécontentement que la nomination de la famille d'Abdul Hadi au Gouvernement de Nablous avait donné aux Nablousiens, à cause de sa tyrannie pendant le Gouvernement Egyptien. A la mort de Suleiman Abdul Hadi, son frère Mohamed Effendi fut nommé à sa place en dépit de la volonté du peuple. Les autres Chéïks de Nablous, craignant les conséquences à eux de cette nomination, se sont décidés de suite de reconstruire leurs châteaux qu'Ibrahim Pacha avait détruits dans le tems. Mohamed Effendi s'est rendu avec quelques troupes pour les détruire de nouveau, ce qu'il n'a pas pu faire sans se battre avec les paysans qui s'étaient rangés du côté des Chéïks.

Les Arabes de Beni Shehr se sont prévalus de cette circonstance pour piller et saccager les villages environnans. Ils ont même osé attaquer Mohamed Effendi, qu'ils ont battu, malgré les troupes irrégulières que le Gouvernement avait mis à sa disposition. Son frère Houssein Effendi, son oncle Mahmoud Effendi, et ses parens, se sont réfugiés dans un village de Nablous, mais les habitans même, ont profité de cette confusion pour mettre quelqu'uns d'eux à mort.

Depuis lors il y a eu de petits combats parmi les Nablousiens qui forment les deux factions pour et contre Mohamed Effendi, et le Gouvernement a dû envoyer sur les lieux des troupes régulières et irrégulières pour établir l'ordre. Mais je viens d'apprendre que Mohamed Effendi s'est permis aussi d'attaquer de soi-même et de piller quelques villages appartenant au Pachalic de Jérusalem, malgré la présence de son Excellence Tayar Pacha. Son Excellence a fait plusieurs représentations au Gouvernement contre la conduite de Mohamed Effendi, et elle a déclaré même que si cet homme n'était pas démis de son poste, qu'elle ne pourra pas gouverner son Pachalic, puisqu'il tâche d'en soulever la population par ses intrigues et ses démarches hostiles. Nonobstant les représentations de son Excellence Tayar Pacha, Mohamed Effendi continue de jouir



toujours de sa place et de la protection du Gouvernement. Malgré le grand nombre de troupes qui se trouvent actuellement à Nablous, les habitans font voir leur mécontentement par chaque occasion, et il est à craindre qu'une insurrection ne s'éclate dans cette province, si le Gouvernement ne prend pas des mesures pour satisfaire le peuple. Comme c'est une affaire assez grave, j'ose suggérer à votre Excellence la nécessité qu'il y a de demander un rapport détaillé de son Excellence Tayar Pacha sur l'état des affaires à Nablous, ainsi que sur la conduite du Gouverneur Mohamed Effendi.

Les Arabes de Djébel Halil et de Gaza continuent toujours à se piller mutuellement et à se battre. La nomination de Chéik Abdul Rahman Omar, comme Muhassil de Djébel Halil, homme intrigant et sanguinaire, a beaucoup ajouté à ce désordre, puisque ce Chéik fait usage de son autorité pour opprimer les pauvres, soit Musulmans, Chrétiens, ou Juifs, et pour se venger de ses ennemis particuliers.

Le Séraskir Selim Pacha aura sans doute informé votre Excellence des mésintelligences qui ont malheureusement survenus entre les Druses et les Maronites du Mont Liban. Dans cette circonstance, me trouvant près des lieux, je me suis empressé de faire mon possible pour empêcher autant que je pouvais, l'effusion du sang, et pour les faire faire la paix; mais c'est avec un vif regret que j'ai à annoncer à votre Excellence, que depuis mon arrivée à Damas ces mêmes scènes ont été répétées, et cette fois-ci quelques uns des Nizamis qui se trouvèrent auprès de l'Emir Béchir ont été tués par les Druses, qui ont attaqué soudainement les habitans de Deir-el-Kammar, résidence de l'Emir Béchir.

Je me borne simplement à communiquer le fait à votre Excellence sans vouloir entrer dans des détails vagues, puisque le retard de mes courriers me prive des renseignemens positifs sur cette fâcheuse affaire. Mais je suis convaincu nonobstant, qu'elle est causée en partie par l'imprudence et les intrigues de quelques membres du Gouvernement, qui ont voulu encourager indirectement les Druses à faire main basse sur les Chrétiens pour leur enlever leur pouvoir dans le Mont Liban. Son Excellence Selim Pacha s'occupe sérieusement de cette affaire, et j'espère bien qu'avec son entremise, elle n'aura pas d'autres suites, et que l'ordre sera rétabli bientôt, pourvu que le Gouvernement de Damas lui accorde l'assistance nécessaire.

Les nouvelles d'Alep sont aussi de nature à faire craindre une sédition dans cette ville. On dit que les Janissaires et les Chérifs de cette ville ont assiégé son Excellence Assaad Pacha, dans son palais, et qu'ils ont maltraité le Gouverneur Civil, en disant qu'ils ne voulaient pas d'autre Pacha qu'un Pacha Janissaire; cette nouvelle pourtant demande confirmation.

Quoique les Arabes Anazis se sont retirés du voisinage de Homs et Hamah, ils continuent cependant à entraver les communications et à saccager quelques uns des villages isolés. Le Gouvernement a la force et les moyens de les repousser, mais, malheureusement, ou il ne sait pas employer les moyens qu'il possède, ou bien il s'occupe des affaires d'une importance tout-à-fait secondaire.

Votre Excellence aura sans doute reçu la pétition (Ardhil Mahdar) des habitans de Damas contre les Agens Européens résidans dans cette ville. Elle sera étonnée d'entendre que cette pétition est l'acte du Gouvernement Local, et que la plus grande partie des notables de Damas furent obligés de la signer contre leur volonté. Ce document a été transmis à la Sublime Porte par le Gouvernement Local, et Votre Excellence sera à même de juger si je me trompe en disant que c'est l'acte du Gouvernement Local, par les observations du Gouvernement qui l'ont accompagné. Soit ce qu'il en veut, il a eu l'effet d'exciter la population Musulmane contre les Rayas, qui tremblent aujourd'hui pour leur existence, et à mettre les Agens Européens dans une fausse position vis-à-vis les Musulmans de cette ville. Le Gouvernement Local s'occupe plutôt de semblables affaires, et par de pareils actes il vient de perdre la confiance des Musulmans, des Rayas, et de tout le monde.

La perception des impôts, des droits de douane, et autres impositions, ont donné lieu à beaucoup de mécontentement, et la grande difficulté que le Gouvernement Local rencontre à percevoir les revenus, servira de preuve suffisante à votre Excellence, combien ce mécontentement est général en Syrie.

Si toutefois votre Excellence me le permettra, je me ferai l'honneur de faire prochainement un rapport sur les points principaux qui demandent l'attention sérieuse de la Sublime Porte, et en vous priant Excellence de vouloir bien agréer, &c.,

(Signé)

RICHARD WOOD.



(Translation.)

Excellency,

*Damascus, October 18, 1841.*

ALWAYS ready to respond to your Excellency's solicitude for the well-being of Syria, I consider it my duty to point out some circumstances relating to the affairs of that country, which require the consideration of the Sublime Porte.

I had the honour to inform your Excellency of the discontent which the appointment of the family of Abdul Hadi to the government of Nablous had caused among the Nablousians, on account of his tyranny during the Egyptian Government. On the death of Suleiman Abdul Hadi, his brother Mohamed Effendi was appointed in his place, in opposition to the wishes of the people. The other Sheiks of Nablous, fearing the consequences which would result to them from this appointment, determined forthwith to rebuild their strongholds which Ibrahim Pasha had formerly destroyed. Mohamed Effendi proceeded with some troops to destroy them again, which he could not do without fighting with the peasants who had taken part with the Sheiks.

The Arabs of Beni Shehr took advantage of this circumstance to pillage and sack the neighbouring villages. They even dared to attack Mohamed Effendi, whom they defeated, in spite of the irregular troops which the Government had placed at his disposal. His brother Houssein Effendi, his uncle Mahmoud Effendi, and his relations, took refuge in the village of Nablous, but even the inhabitants took advantage of this confusion to put some of them to death.

Since that time there have been trifling engagements between the Nablousians who compose the two parties for and against Mohamed Effendi, and the Government was forced to send regular and irregular troops to establish order. But I have just learnt that Mohamed Effendi also ventured himself to attack and to pillage some villages belonging to the Pashalick of Jerusalem, notwithstanding the presence of his Excellency Tayar Pasha. His Excellency has made several representations to the Government against the conduct of Mohamed Effendi, and he has even declared that if this man is not dismissed from his post, he will not be able to govern his Pashalick, as he endeavours to stir up the people to rebellion by his intrigues and hostile measures. Notwithstanding the representations of his Excellency Tayar Pasha, Mohamed Effendi continues to enjoy his place and the protection of the Government. Notwithstanding the great number of troops which are at present at Nablous, the inhabitants manifest their discontent on every opportunity: and it is to be feared that an insurrection will break out in that province, if the Government does not take steps to satisfy the people. As it is a sufficiently important affair, I venture to suggest to your Excellency the necessity of requiring from his Excellency Tayar Pasha, a detailed report upon the state of affairs at Nablous, as well as upon the conduct of the Governor, Mohamed Effendi.

The Arabs of Djebail Halil and of Gaza, still continue to pillage and fight each other. The appointment of Sheik Abdul Rahman Omar, as Muhassil of Djebail Halil, an intriguing and blood-thirsty man, has added much to this disorder, as that Sheik makes use of his authority to oppress the poor, whether Mussulmans, Christians, or Jews, and to revenge himself upon his private enemies.

The Seraskier Selim Pasha will, without doubt, have informed your Excellency of the misunderstandings which have unfortunately occurred between the Druses and the Maronites of Mount Lebanon. Under these circumstances, being near to the spot, I hastened to do all in my power to prevent, as far as I could, the shedding of blood, and to induce them to make peace; but it is with sincere regret that I have to announce to your Excellency, that since my arrival at Damascus the same scenes have been repeated, and on this occasion, some of the Nizams who were with the Emir Beshir, were killed by the Druses, who unexpectedly attacked the inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar, the residence of the Emir Beshir.

I confine myself to simply communicating the fact to your Excellency, without entering into vague details, as the detention of my messenger deprives me of positive information respecting this grievous affair. But I am nevertheless convinced that it was partly caused by the imprudence and intrigues of some

members of the Government, who wished indirectly to encourage the Druses to make an attack upon the Christians, in order to take away their power in Mount Lebanon. His Excellency Selim Pasha has taken up this affair seriously; and I hope very much that with his mediation, it will be attended with no further consequences, and that order will be soon re-established, provided that the Government of Damascus gives him the necessary assistance.

The news from Aleppo is also of a nature to give cause to apprehend that there will be a revolt in that city. It is said that the Janissaries and Sheriffs of that city have attacked his Excellency Assaad Pasha in his palace, and that they have ill-treated the Civil Governor, saying that they would have no Pasha but a Janissary Pasha; this intelligence, however, requires confirmation.

Although the Anazis Arabs have withdrawn from the neighbourhood of Homs and Hamah, they nevertheless continue to interrupt the communications and to sack some of the isolated villages. The Government has the power and the means of repulsing them, but, unfortunately, either it does not know how to use the means it possesses, or it is occupied with affairs of quite secondary importance.

Your Excellency will, without doubt, have received the petition (Ardhil Mahdar) of the inhabitants of Damascus against the European agents residing in that city. You will be astonished to hear that this petition is the act of the Local Government, and that the greatest part of the chief men of Damascus were obliged to sign it against their will. This document has been transmitted to the Sublime Porte by the Local Government, and your Excellency will be able to judge from the observations of the Government, by which it was accompanied, whether I am wrong in saying that it is the act of the Local Government. Be that as it may, it has had the effect of exciting the Mussulman population against the Rayahs, who now tremble for their existence, and of placing the European agents in a false position with regard to the Mussulmans of this city. The Local Government is occupied by preference with similar affairs, and by such acts it has lost the confidence of the Mussulmans, of the Rayahs, and of every body else.

The levying of taxes, of custom duties, and other imposts, has given rise to much discontent; and the great difficulty which the Local Government encounters in collecting the revenue, will serve as a sufficient proof to your Excellency how general this discontent is in Syria.

If, however, your Excellency will allow me, I will shortly do myself the honour of making a report upon the principal points which require the serious attention of the Sublime Porte; and requesting your Excellency to accept,

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 75.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen. — (Received December 11.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, November 4, 1841.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th September, relative to the arrest and imprisonment of Emir Said-el-Deen, Governor of Hasbeya, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of my letters to Viscount Ponsonby and the Ottoman Minister, Rifaat Pasha, together with the copy of my letter to his Excellency Selim Pasha on the same subject.

The Emir is still in prison, notwithstanding the efforts of the Seraskier Selim Pasha to procure his liberation.

In the mean time, the Druse Chief Shibli-el-Arian, who was instructed to arrest him, has disarmed the Christians of Hasbeya, without any authority to do so, and has distributed the arms and the ammunition to the Druses of that district.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.*

My Lord,

*Damascus, October 18, 1841.*

I HAVE the honor to transmit copy of my report to Viscount Palmerston, respecting the arrest of Emir Said-el-Deen, Governor of Hasbeya.

Since writing the above despatch, His Excellency Nejib Pasha told me in the course of conversation at my house, that the Emir had dismissed the revenue collectors whom the Deiterdar had sent to him, and had refused to come to Damascus when called upon to do so, and that, consequently, his Excellency had acquainted the Sublime Porte with his disobedience, and had procured a firman for his arrest.

Whatever may be the ostensible accusations brought against the Emir, I have no hesitation in asserting that he owes his disgrace to his connexion with us, to which the Pasha has given the colour of a plot to deprive the Sultan of Syria, and in which light he has represented it to the Sublime Porte, to facilitate the procuring of a firman for his arrest and exile to Adrianople, as a severe example to those who were disposed to cultivate the friendship of the English agents in this country.

The whole is the intrigue of a certain Suleiman Effendi, who enjoys the entire confidence of the Pasha, notwithstanding that he was the right hand man of Ibrahim Pasha, and who is supposed to be actually in correspondence with him, in order to create disorder for the furtherance of the interests of the Egyptian Government in this country in the event that circumstances should arise to facilitate an aggression. This same individual has persuaded Nejib Pasha to appoint the known adherents of Mehemet Ali to the different districts in the south of Syria; and he is now endeavouring to remove from their posts those who served the Sultan's cause.

The impolitic and unseasonable arrest of this Emir has created great discontent and irritation, and I am greatly afraid that the Anti-Lebanites will take advantage of the present state of Lebanon, to show their indignation by an open sedition. I have thought it my duty, in consequence, to write to his Excellency Rifaat Pasha, a copy of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith, and to transmit to his Excellency the letters of the Emir Beshir, of the Patriarch, of the Bishops, and of the inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar, addressed to me, to procure his liberation, together with a copy of the petition of the inhabitants of the villages of the district of Hasbeya to Nejib Pasha, and of my letter to the Seraskier, Inclosure No. 2.

Should the Sublime Porte persist in exiling the Emir to Adrianople, the worst consequences may be apprehended from it in the present state of the feeling of the people, and I have therfore to beg respectfully that your Lordship will be pleased to take into consideration both the position of the Emir, and the consequences that are likely to follow the injustice practised against him.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Selim Pasha.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

AT the request of the sons of Emir Said-el-Deen, who paid their respects to your Excellency at Deir-el-Kammar, your Excellency was pleased to address a letter to his Excellency Nejib Pasha, respecting the arrest of their father, and soliciting his liberation on account of the services he has rendered both before and after the war. The display of your Excellency's humanity and justice in this instance also, was communicated to the undersigned, and independently of the gratification it afforded him, it has greatly added to the respect he has always entertained for your Excellency.

But, as your Excellency must participate with me the conviction of the little hope there is of releasing the Emir from the disgrace to which he has been subjected here, I have thought it my duty to communicate the circumstance to the Sublime Porte, and to state my persuasion that the only crime of the Emir, is the enmity they bear to him.

Notwithstanding that it is my intention to represent, at length, the distinguished services of the Emir, I have deemed it just to suggest to the Sublime Porte, the propriety of a reference to your Excellency respecting them, and the tenor of his general conduct, to give this affair every facility for investigation; and I take the liberty, in consequence, of proposing to your Excellency, to address at once, and without delay, your report to the Sublime Porte on this important affair, by which no loss of time will take place.

In the hope, therefore, that your Excellency will accede to the above proposal, and thereby save this unfortunate Prince from an unmerited disgrace.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 75.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Rifaat Pasha.*

Excellence,

*Damas, 18 Octobre, 1841.*

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence de l'arrestation et de l'emprisonnement de l'Emir Saïd-el-Deen, Gouverneur du district de Hasbeya.

Votre Excellence se rappellera que pendant ma dernière visite à Constantinople il a été question de renvoyer l'Emir Saïd-el-Deen de son Gouvernement, et que j'avais pris alors la liberté de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner des ordres à son Excellence Nejib Pacha pour le confirmer dans son poste de Gouverneur de Hasbeya, ce qui a été fait.

Les accusations ostensibles portées contre cet Emir sont, premièrement, qu'il n'a pas voulu recevoir le Maliyé Naziry que le Defterdar Effendi avait envoyé auprès de lui pour percevoir le revenu de ce district; et secondement, qu'il a refusé de se rendre auprès de l'autorité supérieure à sa demande; qu'il était sorti, par conséquent, de la voie de l'obéissance.

Des ordres secrets furent donnés en conséquence à un certain Chéik Druse nommé Shibli-el-Arian, pour l'arrêter, ce qu'il a fait dans la nuit pendant que l'Emir se reposait dans un village après les fatigues de la chasse. Ses armes, ses habits, et son cachet même, lui furent enlevés, et dans cet état il a été emmené prisonnier à Damas.

Je me suis intéressé auprès de l'Autorité supérieure pour ce malheureux Prince, mais je suis peiné de dire, sans aucun résultat, puisqu'on me dit que son arrestation a été motivée et autorisée par un Firman Impérial. J'ai observé pourtant à l'Autorité, que la Sublime Porte n'aurait jamais envoyé un pareil Firman si elle (l'Autorité) n'avait pas représenté l'Emir Saïd-el-Deen comme un rebelle et un traître.

Quoique cet Emir est arrêté depuis plusieurs jours, je n'ai pas voulu faire aucune représentation à la Sublime Porte avant de bien examiner l'affaire, et de connaître les véritables motifs de cette démarche. Or, j'ai l'honneur d'assurer positivement votre Excellence, que, quoique l'Emir avait renvoyé le Maliyé Naziry, et qu'il ne s'était point rendu auprès de l'Autorité, à sa requisition, qu'il n'est pas pourtant moins fidèle au Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, comme il l'a été toujours, et qu'il a prouvé tout récemment par ses services distingués pendant toute la dernière guerre, et qu'il ne doit absolument sa disgrâce qu'à l'amitié qu'il a montrée pour quelques officiers Anglais.

Ses ennemis ont profité de cette circonstance pour l'accuser à l'Autorité supérieure d'une conspiration avec les Anglais pour enlever la Syrie à Sa Hautesse le Sultan.

Je m'abstiens de faire aucune remarque sur cette accusation, puisque votre Excellence est à même de juger de son absurdité, au moment même que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique vient de donner à la Sublime Porte des preuves les plus éclatantes combien il a au cœur les intérêts de la Sublime Porte, ainsi que l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman.

Soit ce qu'il en veut, l'arrêt de l'Emir Saïd-el-Deen dans ce moment-ci est

une mesure extrêmement impolitique, et ne pourra pas manquer d'avoir des conséquences très fâcheuses et très préjudiciables aux intérêts réels de la Sublime Porte, surtout à présent que la force Turque en Syrie est très petite, et que le mécontentement et l'irritation règnent partout.

Depuis l'emprisonnement de cet Emir, j'ai reçu des lettres de l'Emir Béchir, du Patriarche Maronite, des évêques de tous les rites, et des habitans de la ville de Deir-el-Kammar, pour que je m'intéresse auprès de l'Autorité supérieure pour sa libération, ce que j'ai pris la liberté de faire dans les intérêts même de la Sublime Porte, mais sans succès, puisqu'elle prétend de ne pas comprendre mes raisonnemens, ou bien de ne pas voir cette affaire de la manière sérieuse que je la vois moi-même. J'ai l'honneur de transmettre les originaux de ces lettres, ainsi que copie d'une pétition adressée à son Excellence Néjib Pacha par les Musulmans et Rayas de tous les villages du district de Hasbeya.

Ces documens prouveront à votre Excellence combien l'Emir Saïd-el-Deen est aimé et respecté dans le pays, et je me fais un devoir de prévenir votre Excellence, que si on venait de l'exiler à Adrianople, comme il en est question, les habitans de Hasbeya se joindront aux habitans du Mont Liban, pour produire de nouveaux troubles dans le pays, de la même nature que ceux que j'ai eu l'honneur de signaler à votre Excellence dans mon rapport d'aujourd'hui. Avec cette conviction j'ai adressé une lettre à son Excellence Sélim Pacha, dont je transmets ci-joint copie.

Leurs Excellences le Seraskir et le Général Jochmus, je suis sûr, donneront leurs attestations en faveur de ce malheureux Emir, sur les services qu'il a rendus à la Sublime Porte, et sur sa conduite loyale, et moi-même j'ose suggérer à votre Excellence la nécessité qu'il y a pour la tranquillité et le bien-être de ce pays, ainsi que pour établir la confiance parmi le peuple, que la Sublime Porte voulût bien transmettre des ordres pour la mise en liberté de cet Emir, afin qu'il retourne au sein de sa famille, d'où il a été arraché par des accusations fausses et sans fondement, par les intrigues de ceux qui ont de l'intérêt de semer le désordre et la confusion dans ce pays.

Dans l'attente de recevoir une réponse favorable, veuillez, &c.

(Signé) RICHARD WOOD.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

*Damascus, October 18, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency of the arrest and imprisonment of the Emir Said-el-Deen, Governor of the district of Hasbeya.

Your Excellency will remember that, during my last visit to Constantinople, there was a question of removing the Emir Said-el-Deen from his government, and that I then took the liberty of requesting your Excellency to be good enough to direct his Excellency Nejib Pasha to confirm him in his post of Governor of Hasbeya, which was done.

The ostensible charges brought against this Emir are, first, that he would not receive the Maliyé Naziry whom the Desterdar Effendi had sent to him to collect the revenues of the district; and secondly, that he refused to wait upon the superior authority at his request; that he had consequently deviated from the path of obedience.

Secret orders were in consequence given to a certain Druse Sheik, named Shibli-el-Arian, to arrest him, which was done in the night while the Emir was resting in a village after the fatigue of shooting. His arms, his clothes, and even his seal, were taken away from him, and in this state he was brought a prisoner to Damascus.

I used my good offices with the superior authority in behalf of this unfortunate Prince, but I am grieved to say, without any effect, as I was told that his arrest had been caused and authorized by an Imperial Firman. I, however, observed to the authority, that the Sublime Porte would never have sent such a Firman if he (the authority) had not represented the Emir Said-el-Deen as a rebel and a traitor.

Although this Emir has been arrested for some days, I would not make any representation to the Sublime Porte before I had well inquired into the affair, and before I well knew the real cause of this measure.

Now, I have the honour to assure your Excellency positively, that, although the Emir did send away the Maliyé Naziry, and did not wait upon the authority at his request, he is nevertheless not less faithful to the Government of His Highness than he has always been, and than he quite recently proved himself to be by his distinguished services during the whole of the last war, and that he absolutely owes his disgrace only to the friendship which he showed to some English officers.

His enemies took advantage of that circumstance to accuse him, to the Superior Authority, of a conspiracy with the English to take away Syria from His Highness the Sultan.

I abstain from making any remark upon this accusation, as your Excellency is able to judge of its absurdity, at the very moment when Her Britannic Majesty's Government has given to the Sublime Porte the most striking proofs how much it has at heart the interests of the Sublime Porte, as well as the integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

Be that as it may, the arrest of the Emir Said-el-Deen at this moment, is an extremely impolitic measure, and cannot fail to be attended with consequences very much to be lamented, and very prejudicial to the real interests of the Sublime Porte, particularly now when the Turkish force in Syria is very small, and when discontent and irritation prevail everywhere.

Since the imprisonment of this Emir, I have received letters from the Emir Beshir, from the Maronite Patriarch, from the Bishops of all persuasions, and from the inhabitants of the town of Deir-el-Kammar, requesting me to use my good offices with the Superior Authority to procure his liberation, which I have taken the liberty to do in the interest of the Sublime Porte, but without success; as he pretends not to understand my arguments, or at all events not to view this affair in the same serious light as I do myself. I have the honour to transmit the originals of these letters, as well as a copy of a petition addressed to his Excellency Nejib Pasha by the Mussulmans and Rayahs of all the villages of the district of Hasbeyah.

These documents will prove to your Excellency how much the Emir Said-el-Deen is beloved and respected in the country, and I consider it my duty to inform your Excellency that if he should be banished to Adrianople, which there is a question of doing, the inhabitants of Hasbeyah would unite with the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, for the purpose of producing fresh disorders in the country, of the same nature as those which I have had the honour of mentioning to your Excellency in my report of this day. Under this conviction I have addressed a letter to his Excellency Selim Pasha, of which I herewith transmit a copy.

Their Excellencies the Seraskier and General Jochmus will, I am sure, give their testimony in favour of this unfortunate Emir, as to the services which he has rendered to the Sublime Porte, and as to his loyal conduct; and I venture myself to suggest to your Excellency that it is necessary for the tranquillity and prosperity of this country, as well as for the establishment of confidence among the people, that the Sublime Porte should send orders for the liberation of this Emir, in order that he may return to the bosom of his family, from which he was torn by means of false and groundless accusations by reason of the intrigues of those whose interest it is to spread disorder and confusion in this country.

In the hope of receiving a favourable answer,

Accept, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

#### No. 76

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

My Lord,

Damascus, November 4, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, translation of a report on the occurrences in Mount Lebanon, as well as extracts of various other reports from the 22nd October to the 1st instant, respecting the proceedings of the belligerent parties.

It would appear that the Seraskier Selim Pasha has decided upon sending

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200 Nizams to garrison Deir-el-Kammar for the protection of the Emir, a measure, which it is to be hoped will deter the adverse party from continuing its attacks, and which will also have the effect of abating the violence of the Christians.

I am told this instant, that Ayoub Pasha is arrived here from Deir-el-Kammar, to confer with his Excellency Nejib Pasha, respecting the measures to be taken for putting an end to the civil war. I am informed, besides, that Sheik Naaman intends also to come to Damascus, but the object of his visit is not yet known.

I have &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

*Extracts of a Report to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Translation.)

October 21, 1841.

ON the arrival of Ayoub Pasha and Colonel Rose, the firing ceased at Deir-el-Kammar, but Abusumra, who had been sent to Anti-Lebanon to keep open the roads, having heard what had occurred, returned towards Mount Lebanon, collecting on his way the Christians of that neighbourhood, and of the village of Djenin, and burnt three or four Druse villages after defeating the inhabitants. So soon as this fact became known, the Sheiks of the house of Djinblat induced the Sheiks of the house of Amad (Druses) to collect their clients and attack the Christians. Ayoub Pasha, on receiving intelligence of it, sent orders to them to return to their respective homes, but his two messengers returned without any answer, after experiencing ill usage. The Pasha was very angry at this, and wrote to his Excellency Selim Pasha, asking for troops, ammunition, cannon, &c., which have been prepared, and to-day the Seraskier himself will march with this force to the foot of the mountains.

The Patriarch has sent succours from Kesrouan and its neighbourhood: two Bishops, one of whom is his brother, accompanied the Sheiks. They have joined the Christians of these parts, and on the 19th instant they attacked the Druse and Christian village of Shoofaat, insulting both the one and the other indiscriminately. The inhabitants then united, made common cause, and repulsed the Christians, after which they set fire to sundry houses in Cafarcima, burning also the palace of the princes of Shehab, and turning the princesses into the streets. It was shameful to see a great number of Christians assembled in the rear without their giving any assistance. In the interval, about 300 Christians arrived from Zahlé, and gave battle to the Druses near Cafarcima, whom they drove back the distance of a league, but they returned at night, pillaged the convent of St Antonio, and burnt many houses in that neighbourhood.

To-day the Pasha has sent the Kadi and the Muhassil of Beyrout to intimate to the parties to retire to their homes, threatening to attack, with his own forces, those who refused to obey his orders, and to endeavour to pacify them, if possible; but the result of this mission is not yet known.

I have been assured that the Druse Sheiks who were decorated by Mehemet Ali, are in correspondence with the Egyptian Government.

In the conflict at Deir-el-Kammar, thirty Christians were killed, and about the same number were decapitated and assassinated in their houses and shops when the Druses pillaged a part of the town. Those who surrendered to the Sheiks were also put to death. It is said that about 200 Druses fell in the war. Deir-el-Kammar continues to be in a state of siege.

It is asserted that the Ex-Prince is arrived at Constantinople. Some think that the only means of extinguishing the fire would be separating the Government of the Druses, others by bringing back the Ex-Prince, and others by using force; but nothing has been decided between them.



*Extracts of Reports respecting the hostilities in Lebanon between the Christians and Druses, and proceedings of Shibli-el-Arian.*

22<sup>nd</sup> October.—The Druses have sent a portion of their troops to the district of Akalim-el-Toufcha, near Sidon, which they have devastated by burning the villages and killing the inhabitants. These proceedings of the Druses are attributed to the presence of Shibli-el-Arian at Hasbeya, who encourages them by committing similar acts.

The Druses of Lebanon have demanded assistance of their countrymen in Hasbeya and Rasheya. They have also applied to the Druses inhabiting the mountains near Aleppo; the same that they did in the wars of Sheik Beshir Djinblat.

Sheik Said Djinblat attacked the village of Sagbin, which he burnt, after killing indiscriminately about 200 men, women, and children.

Ten horsemen arrived at Damascus from the Sheiks of the house of Amad, to procure ammunition, and to proceed from hence to the Haouran, to call to arms the Druses of that district.

24<sup>th</sup> October.—Four battalions of regular troops, with four or six pieces of cannon, have left Beyrout for the mountains. The Christians have concentrated their forces at Baabda to the amount of six or seven thousand men, waiting for Selim Pasha's orders before they marched to the assistance of the Prince.

The Judge and Governor of Beyrout have persuaded the Emir Emin Raslan to address the Pasha, and to request peace; but the Christians, in reply, have requested to know the reason of the outrage, and an indemnification for their losses. They persist, besides, on succour being sent to the Prince, and the Judge, the Muhassil, and a Colonel with thirty horsemen, have been sent to Deir-el-Kammar, to accompany the Prince to Beyrout.

Although the Turkish authorities have not sided with any party, they are suspected to be secretly in favour of the Druses.

The Christians of Djenin have burnt some houses belonging to their adversaries in four or five villages, and their Patriarch is fortifying his position.

At two o'clock P.M. one thousand Christians have proceeded to Djenin to strengthen their countrymen, and two thousand more have marched to the assistance of the Prince. There remain, consequently, five thousand at Baabda.

25<sup>th</sup> October.—The Christians of Kalat Djendel, of the district of Belan, fled to Katana, on perceiving that the Druses of the neighbouring districts and of the Haouran, had assembled to attack and disarm the people of Hasbeya. The Druses have sent information of their proceedings to their countrymen in the different districts.

Some cases, the contents of which were unknown, were stopped and examined by the Custom-House officers, and were found to contain ammunition for Shibli-el-Arian. They were allowed to proceed, on the declaration of the people that accompanied them, that they were sent by the local Government.

Shibli-el-Arian has sent an order to his followers to quit immediately Damascus.

He collected four hundred and fifty muskets from the Christians of Hasbeya. He also took forcibly all the silver mounted pistols and swords. He opened and examined, besides, the trunks of the inhabitants, taking all the money and ammunition he found in them. He subsequently assembled all the Druses, Turks, and Mutualis of that district, to whom he distributed the arms. The ammunition he took from the palace of Emir Said-el-Deen he sent to Shoof, in Lebanon, with an escort of three hundred men under Sheik Emin Shems.

He collected one hundred and forty muskets from the Christians of Rasheya, after he had imprisoned their chief, Zib Daoud. He levied three hundred and fifty piastres from those who had no arms to give him. He then forced the Turks and Druses of that place to accompany him in his excursion against Zahlé.

28<sup>th</sup> October.—The Judge has returned from Deir-el-Kammar without the Prince. It is suspected that the Turks will endeavour to replace the Emir by a Turkish Governor; but the inhabitants of the town will not permit the Prince to leave them, so long as the family of the Druse Sheik Noked is allowed to remain.

It is reported that the Prince's brother, Emir Abdallah, has succeeded in entering the town with fifteen hundred men, after beating back the Druses, on

the 25th instant, that were advancing in three divisions. The Druses lost forty men.

On the same day, Emir Kais attacked another party, which he drove back to Teissen, killing thirty of them; and Abasumra has also been successful against them in the district of Djenin.

The Turkish authorities continue their efforts to pacify them. The Turkish forces are encamped within an hour of Beyrout, at which place Reshid Pasha has just arrived from Acre.

The Maronites were not justified in insulting the Christians of Shoofaat; but the affair has been arranged. There is little order or discipline among them. Selim Pasha has confined his operations to merely weak demonstrations without effect.

The Druses also attacked the villages of Debbin and Bekesin, which they pillaged and burnt after being evacuated by the peasants. The authorities have sent fifty irregular cavalry to prevent the Druses from committing similar acts of violence.

The Druses of Betedar, of Ai Tab, and of Ainanoob, have marched on Bukshei, which they have partially burnt, and those of Shoofaat have assembled at Beir-el-Warwar, to fall upon Baabda, but the Christians attacked them at once at Warwar, and drove them back to Shoofaat.

Emir Haidar has marched also against another party of the Druses, over whom he has gained some success.

Sheik Naaman, with two thousand Druses, was proceeding to Kassim to attack Abusumra, who occupied that place, but the latter on receiving intelligence of their intention, divided his forces into two columns, fell upon them, and dispersed them. It is said they lost three hundred men in this action.

1st November.—The Emir Haidar continues to communicate with the authorities for the establishment of peace, but he has refused to meet Emir Emin Raslan. Selim Pasha has decided upon sending two hundred troops to the Emir at Deir-el-Kammar, and upon removing from the town the Sheiks Naked, of the family of Amad. He has also sent provisions.

The Druses have pillaged and burnt the convent of Mashmushe.

Some of the Christian Sheiks are suspected of acting a dishonourable part for motives of personal consideration. There is great disunion and disorganization among the Christians in general. All kind of intrigues are resorted to to pacify the parties.

## No. 77.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 31, 1841.*

I HAVE received your despatches to that of the 20th of November inclusive, and I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your conduct in the circumstances reported in those despatches, and the zealous endeavours which you have made to put a stop to the disorders and the bloodshed which the unhappy feuds between the Druses and the Christians have occasioned in Mount Lebanon.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to call the serious attention of the Porte to the state of Syria, and to the supineness manifested by the Turkish authorities in general during the scenes related in your despatches. His Excellency will point out to the Porte the absolute necessity of placing at the disposal of its authorities in Syria an amount of regular troops sufficient to control all parties, and he will recommend that the Turkish military commanders should have orders to repress at the outset every indication of a disposition in any quarter to recommence hostilities. Sir Stratford Canning will also urge the Porte to remove Nejib Pasha, whose system of Government appears to be the occasion of much of the disorder which prevails in Syria, and who, there is much reason to imagine, has fomented rather than repressed the animosity between the Druses and the Christians.

I mention this in the present circumstance, more particularly with reference to the mission of Yacoub Pasha to inquire into the state of Syria, upon which it appears the Porte has determined. Her Majesty's Government are aware of the powerful support upon which Nejib Pasha may reckon at Constantinople, and that Yacoub Pasha might, in consequence, be deterred from making a faithful report of the misdeeds of Nejib, lest he should compromise himself with the friends of the latter at Constantinople. But if Yacoub Pasha should understand that in laying before the Porte a true statement of Nejib's conduct, he will meet with the support of the British Ambassador, he may be encouraged to make a faithful report to his Sovereign, and so contribute to the removal of a Governor whose continuance in Syria threatens to bring about the entire subversion of the Sultan's authority in that Province.

I need scarcely add, that it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that you should give Yacoub Pasha all the information you can, which may enable him to form a correct estimate of the state of affairs.

You allude in your despatch of the 11th of November to a conversation which you had with the Emir Beshir a few days before, and to the advice which you had given him to lay a statement of his case before the Porte. You did quite right in abstaining from offering any opinion on the question of his continuing to hold the Government of Lebanon. Her Majesty's Government are aware that the Emir possesses many estimable qualities, but he appears unfortunately to be wanting in those which are required for the administration of that district in the present critical state of affairs. But Her Majesty's Government would be unwilling to incur the responsibility of recommending that he should retire of his own accord, or of suggesting to the Porte that a successor should be appointed to him. You may be right in your conjecture that the Turkish authorities on the spot would see with pleasure his voluntary abdication, in the expectation that such an act would increase the confusion in the Lebanon, and ultimately break the strength of both Druses and Christians.

Her Majesty's Government trust that such is not the policy of the Porte; but they consider that the removal of the present Emir Beshir and the nomination of his successor, will be most likely to lead to the restoration of peace in the Lebanon, if ordained by the Porte itself. With regard to the person upon whom the choice of the Porte should fall, Her Majesty's Government do not feel themselves authorized to offer an opinion, except in so far as the late Emir Beshir may be considered a candidate for the office. Sir Stratford Canning, as I informed you in my despatch of the 26th of November, has been instructed to deprecate the reinstatement of that individual: but his Excellency has also been told that if the Porte should look upon the Emir Emin as a person likely to be an efficient successor to the present Emir Beshir, it would not be necessary that he should offer any objection to his nomination.

Her Majesty's Government cannot suppose that the Porte would think of nominating any member of Mehemet Ali's family to the government of the Lebanon.

With regard to the concluding passage in your despatch of November 11, in which you mention the pecuniary compensation with which the Emir Beshir might be contented, I have to state to you, that Her Majesty's Government would very reluctantly mix itself up in a discussion on that subject. The losses of the Emir have doubtless been most severe; but in that respect he has only partaken of the lot which has befallen all parties, Druses as well as Christians. All have to lament their property destroyed, their houses pillaged and burnt, and their lands laid waste; and there seems no sufficient reason why one party or individual more than another, should claim or receive compensation. Her Majesty's Government have indeed directed Sir Stratford Canning to represent to the Porte that much might be accomplished for the pacification of the Lebanon, by compensating sufferers for losses which they may have sustained during the late contests, and by reinstating them in the possessions from which they may have been ejected. It is impossible to anticipate to what extent the Porte may have the inclination or the ability to attend to this suggestion; but whatever may be the result, it cannot be denied that

the greatest part, if not the whole, of the miseries which have befallen the inhabitants of the Lebanon, are attributable to the feuds, jealousies and animosities, which they have cherished among themselves. As long as such a state of feeling exists between the Druses and the Christians, they will be exposed to a repetition of similar calamities; and their Mahometan rulers will be encouraged to avail themselves of the easy means thus offered to them, of playing off against each other the rival parties, and of ultimately oppressing both alike.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 78.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 13, 1842.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, November 19, 1841.*

I HAVE the satisfaction to state to your Lordship, that general hostilities have ceased betwixt the Maronites and Druses.

Although the Christians were routed on the 5th instant at Shooyfaat, and retired behind the Dog River, yet as the Druses had sent reinforcements in the second week of November to Shibli-el-Arian to assist him in his attack on Zahlé, the Christians began to appear in some numbers again on this side of the Nahr-el-Kelb, lining the steep banks of two or three glens, through which streams run into the sea between Beyrout and that river. Abusumra having embarked at Sidon on the 9th instant, where he had been hid for some days, had arrived at Djouni, and commanded one of these parties, who were all, however, thoroughly discouraged, and longing for the termination of hostilities. Anxious to find some excuse for their rout at Shooyfaat, they accused their leaders of treason and want of courage. The Emir Kais complained to me, that the Maronites accused their Commander-in-Chief, his father, the Emir Melkem, of pusillanimity. The Patriarch, therefore, and the people, transferred the command of their force from the Emirs to the Sheiks, (who they conceived had given proofs of courage,) with the exception of the Emir Haidar, who had collected a large body of Maronites near Saleima, to protect the Kesrouan, in the event of the Druses, should they take Zahlé, turning from thence to the left, and falling on the Kesrouan. But the successful defence of Zahlé, and the march of the Turkish troops to that place, which I think was caused by the collective letter which was sent to the Seraskier by M. Basili, M. Bourrée, and myself, produced a favourable effect in putting an end to hostilities.

Rechid Pasha, on his march to Zahlé, ordered both Christians and Druses, whom he found in arms, to retire to their homes. On his arrival he ordered the large Druse force which he found collected before it, to retire, an order which they were not sorry to obey; they had discovered too late, the folly of their proceeding in attacking, with infantry without artillery, a town properly defended by its inhabitants, a proceeding unjustified by the experience of warfare. The earnest appeal of Shibli-el-Arian, the hope of the pillage of the Kesrouan, the stronghold of their enemies the Maronites, and the residence of the object of their aversion, the Patriarch, made the Druses abandon on this occasion their habitual prudence. Zahlé too was the residence of Basilios, the Catholic bishop, who had made himself obnoxious to the Druses, by writing the circular letter to his flock, of which I inclosed a copy in another despatch of the 19th November: the contents of that letter enjoined those to whom it was addressed by the bishop, to burn, murder, and destroy. On the other hand, the repulse of the Druses at Zahlé, allayed among the Christians, the bitter feeling of defeat and humiliation, which had been caused by the total defeat of their force of 7,000 men, the subjection of their brethren south of Beyrout, the failure of the attempt to relieve Deir-el-Kammar, and their flight from Shooyfaat.

As I had the honour to state, general hostilities have ceased, but

partial forays and skirmishes continue, and another outbreak would not be a matter of surprise.

The people of Zahlé complain loudly of the tardy march of Rechid Pasha to Zahlé, which they state was intended to give the Druses an opportunity of taking that town, and that he only advanced to Zahlé when he learnt the defeat of the Druses. The Emir Beshir informed me that he saw a letter from Rechid Pasha to the Seraskier, requesting his permission to disarm a portion of the Zahliotes, who further accuse the Turkish Commissioner, Galib Bey, who preceded Rechid Pasha, of having desired them to give up their arms to the Druses, and of having gone from Zahlé over to the quarters of the Druses, ostensibly for the purpose of desiring them to withdraw, which they assert that he did not do, but that on the contrary, he actually accompanied them, and was seen in the attack which they made the next day against the town.

No. 79.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, December 4, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that the Turks burnt a Greek Antiochian church at Djenin, a village in the Bekaa. Nejib Pasha sent some cavalry, and brought in about thirty peasants, but it is not yet known what his Excellency intends to do with them.

No. 80.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, December 4, 1841.*

THE events of the last few weeks have shewn that the Maronites, so far from being able to attack and drive the Druses out of their country, and exterminate them, as they said, after a short combat, tremble for their existence as a people. If the Druses, instead of knocking their heads against Zahlé and its resolute inhabitants, had gone from Shoofaat into the Meten, the discouragement of the Maronites from Nahr-el-Kelb to Tripoli was so great, that I really believe that they would have laid down their arms, and made such terms as they could with the Druses. The Patriarch, the soul of the Maronite party, who had said that "he would be carried on his bed, ill as he was, to the front of the Christian force, unfurl the standard of the cross, and die at their head," as was written in Father Arsenius' letter to me, had made up his mind to fly. His Eminence begged that boats, or Her Majesty's steamers, might be ready to take him off, although he confessed that the circumstance of the Emir Beshir, the Prince of the Mountain, having been compelled to retire from Deir-el-Kammar, followed by his, the Patriarch's, flight from the heart of the Maronite country, would afford to the Druses a triumph, which would cause extreme bitterness of spirit to his Eminence.

The Maronites then, although assisted in their late operations by means not possessed by the Druses, the money given by France and Austria to the Maronites for charitable purposes, but applied by the Patriarch to the war, are not come out of the late struggle the dominant sect in Syria.

Another circumstance has weakened the Maronites. There are now divisions amongst them, as generally occur with a beaten party. The people of Deir-el-Kammar taunt those of Kesrouan with want of courage, in not having succoured them; and they blame the Patriarch for having, by his interference, increased the animosity of that people against them. Recriminations have taken place between them; and two or three powerful Sheiks are now publicly considered as inimical to his Eminence.

The Mahometans view with jealousy the intolerant conduct of the Maronite and Catholic clergy and population, and the large subscriptions which were sent to the Maronites by France and Austria. There is a great fellow-feeling between the Maronites and the Mahometans; the latter Mussulmans deny, which is quite true, that their religion is the same, or even similar, but still the lower orders of both parties consider themselves, in a manner, as co-religionists. The Druses, as occasion serves, call themselves Mahometans; they read the Koran. Perhaps their religion may be termed a Mahometan heresy, with a mixture of idolatry, for they worship the calf. A small idol, a calf, was taken in the late hostilities from the body of a Druse, to whose neck it was suspended.

## No. 81.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, December 7, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that on all occasions when I thought that I could do so with effect, I have addressed remonstrances and advice to the Druse chiefs. It would have been idle for me to suppose that I could have succeeded in diverting the Druses from a fixed plan, in which they were secretly aided by the local authorities, for effecting a great political object of vital importance to themselves, their emancipation from the temporal and spiritual influence of the Patriarch, to say nothing of the direct rule of the Emir Beshir, to which they never willingly submitted. That the Patriarch has given great cause of complaint to the Druses no impartial person can deny: his defenders even now blame him for his conduct towards that people. The Patriarch and the Emir Beshir had both announced their intention of making war against the Druses, and subduing, his Eminence said exterminating, them, in the event of their not giving up their claims to the disputed properties in the Bekaa, and other places, or of showing symptoms of independence. The Druses were determined not to give up the property, which is a matter of doubtful right between the Maronite and Druse Emirs. The following will throw light on this subject:—

In the valley of the Bekaa a great deal of land belongs to holy families residing in Damascus,—Zoames or Islardes,—so called because they are descended from Mahomet, on condition that they are to fight for the Sultan without pay, in a sacred war. Several of the Druse princes have held these lands for one and two hundred years, paying a small fee for it. Maronite princes of larger income than the Druses, have given a higher rent, and now seek to take possession of these lands.

If the Druses had not attacked the Maronites, the Maronites would have attacked the Druses. The latter were wary enough to see the advantage which they would gain by taking the Christians by surprise, the feeble Government of the country being besides well disposed towards them. The departure of the Ex-Emir Beshir from Malta in one of Her Majesty's ships for Constantinople, produced the greatest sensation in the Mountains; and the universal belief was, that the Prince was to return to power in Syria. Many think that the Druses were determined to strike their blow before the arrival of a man who had kept them in entire subjection.

When I was at Deir-el-Kammar, I made the strongest remonstrances to Sheikh Nasif respecting the cruelties he had committed, and I never failed to represent to the Druse Chiefs, that inhumanity would indispose not only Great Britain, but Europe at large, against them; and I always enjoined the re-establishment of peace and order. My intercessions with the Druses in favour of the Maronites have been often successfully employed. Hussein Talhook who had taken in a foray a large sum of money, at my request restored it a few days back to its owner.

Having heard that after the final attack on Zahlé, the Druses had again the intention to move against it, I addressed a very strong remon-



strance to him, exposing the bad policy and wickedness of such a proceeding. I told the Druse chiefs that it would draw down on them the reprobation of all, and of none more than of myself. I told them that every man had a right to defend his own house, and that the people of Zahlé would carry the sympathies of all with them. I thought this a favourable time to intervene, because I was certain that several of the most sensible of the Druses were of my way of thinking. I received an answer that they would not repeat the attack on Zahlé; and shortly afterwards Naaman Bey, Emir Haidar, Ahmet Raslan, and other Druse Chiefs, having expressed a wish to see Mr. Assad Kayat, my interpreter, I requested him to go to Shoofaat, where they were assembled. Naaman Djinblat was not unreasonable. From what he said, Mr. Kayat thinks that the Druses will be satisfied with a Kapu Kiaja, or agent, to represent their interests at Constantinople, as both the Patriarch and Emir Beshir have their Kapu Kijas. This is not an unreasonable request. The Druses will also probably endeavour to obtain a guarantee against the exercise of the influence of the Patriarch.

Naaman Bey made a sort of exposition of the grievances of the Druses, which was very much as follows:—

“A Maronite Patriarch and a Maronite Prince govern the Mountain, which was formerly the mountain of the Druses; the Maronite Patriarch has been decorated with a nishan, and his interests are represented and attended to at Constantinople by his Kapu Kiaja,—honours and advantages not enjoyed by the head of our, or of the head of the religion of any other sect, perhaps more powerful and certainly more obedient subjects than the Maronites. Fourteen thousand pounds have been sent to them. The feudal rights of our chiefs, which made them almost sovereigns, have already been greatly curtailed to gratify the Maronite party; and the shadow of our once unlimited power which remained, that is, the office of Sheiks, or governors of the towns and villages, which office was recognized by the Authorities, the Patriarch illegally and secretly endeavoured to do away with this last autumn by the Hedji. Not satisfied with all these advantages over us, with our position as inferiors. in the very country where we were once a dominant people, the Patriarch called forth all the power and terrors of his religion to stifle our blameless attempt to educate our children. We had invited the American Missionaries, excellent men, who had kept aloof from politics, who had no influence by themselves beyond that which resulted from their good deeds, and who were supported by no political power, to give our nation the blessings of education, to make our children better than their parents. The Maronites and their clergy taunt us continually with our savageness, our fierceness; we were alive to our own imperfections, and we wished that our children should not inherit them, and we sought the aid of those who had the means of raising us in the scale of civilization.”

This statement is, on the whole, correct; the Hedjé, which I before described, was a scheme of the Patriarch to appoint two elders, who should supplant the feudal chiefs. So great a reform the spiritual authority had no more right to attempt to effect than the Greek Patriarch at Constantinople would have to issue a Hatti-Sheriff. So alive was the Bishop Tubia, a protégé of the Patriarch, to the impolicy of the measure, that he went on his knees to his Eminence to induce him to revoke it, but in vain. It came into operation about two months before the attack on Deir-el-Kammar; and the indignation which it excited amongst the Druses would alone account for their revolt.

The Patriarch directed Nasif Bey, the Druse Governor, to expel the Americans from Deir-el-Kammar, and he forbade his communicants to have any intercourse with them, on pain of excommunication.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.



*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, December 7, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that, about ten days ago, some Maronite horsemen—one of them from Falaya—killed a Druse woman, and wounded another, in a village, Turbia, about two hours from Zahlé. This occurrence caused great excitement amongst the Druses, and it was feared at one time that there would be a fresh outbreak, but it has not taken place. The Druses, however, demanded that some elders of Zahlé should be imprisoned till the perpetrators of the outrage, who, they conceived, belonged to that town, should be delivered up; accordingly, the Turkish Commandant, Mustapha Bey, has confined two of the elders.

This is not the first time that the Maronites have killed women; and, in consideration of all that has taken place, I am inclined to revoke my opinion, that the Druses are more cruel than the Maronites; in the midst of their successes, the spirit of revenge strong in the Druses, no case of violation has been brought home to them; in Deir-el-Kammar, encouraged by their wicked Chief, Nasif Bey, they plundered, and committed every sort of depredation, but even the Maronites do not tax them with one case of violation; but, by order of Nasif Bey, they put to death five of the lower orders who, during the seige, had vituperated that Chief.

In the large villages of Ainoob, Ainanoob, even in Bakalein, the scene of the bloody collision in September, in the Garb, and other places, where there are mixed populations of Catholics, Maronites, and Druses, the former have remained unhurt by the latter, although the Druses went out of these villages, of which they were the masters, to make war on the co-religionists of these people—a singular state of things. Some of the Druse Chiefs, the Abd-el-Meleks, the Abounekeds, have been carrying on a system of brigandage, exacting money, and taking hostages; but this conduct, especially that of Nasif Bey, was loudly condemned by Naaman Bey and the other Druse Chiefs who met Mr. Assad Kayat at Shooyfaat; they said that Nasif Bey had disgraced the name of the Druses, by breaking his agreement with the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar. Said Djinblat, brother of Naaman Bey, showed generosity and humanity to two Maronites now in Beyrout, who extol him.

Yesterday I saw an order from Nasif Bey and Sheik Hamoud, directing the Druses to return to their homes.

In the districts near Sidon, the Mutualis have taken advantage of the disturbed state of affairs, to plunder the Christians and commit outrages; in one instance, they violated a Christian woman. In consequence of these occurrences, and a display of fanatical feeling on the part of the Mussulmans towards the Christian population, Captain Pring was good enough to send Her Majesty's ship "Scout" to be stationed off Sidon; she arrived there on the 22nd ultimo; also, at my suggestion, which I made for the same reasons, Captain Michell, of Her Majesty's ship "Inconstant," sent Her Majesty's ship "Phoenix" to Tyre.

In Naplous, the Mahometan inhabitants are engaged in continual combats with the Bedouins, who, unchecked and uncontrolled by the Government, render the communications unsafe in the south of Syria, which is, besides, the scene of constant warfare between village and village.

In the beginning of last month, thirty Turkish cavalry, who had been sent to protect the road between Latakia and Gibelatta, were attacked by the Anzarics of the surrounding villages, as they were conveying some prisoners, Anzarics, to Latakia; the prisoners, who had been infesting the roads, were armed, and the cavalry, one of whom was killed, were put to flight.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, November 20, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, since my arrival in this city, I have witnessed more than once the fanaticism of the Mussulmans displayed against the Christian subjects of the Sublime Porte.

As this spirit has been either excited or connived at by his Excellency Nejib Pasha, the Mussulmans were encouraged to the degree of talking publicly of the general massacre of the Christians, who, alarmed at their perilous position, have repeatedly applied to me to induce the authorities to afford them ampler protection by the punishment of those who scrupled not to hold such open threats.

I deferred taking any official notice of it until I could ascertain whether their fears were well grounded, when, on the 13th instant, they were assailed in the streets, beaten, and their white turbans torn off their heads. A British protégé experienced the same treatment, as well as some of the clerks of the Government.

I thought it then my duty to write to his Excellency a letter, a copy of which I have the honour of transmitting herewith, reminding him of the firman that was sent to him expressly for the protection of the Rayahs of the Sublime Porte, according to which they were free to wear the costume they pleased, to ride on horseback, &c., &c., without molestation or ill usage.

His Excellency was pleased to send me immediately his Master of Police, to receive from me the names of the individuals I wished should be arrested and punished.

Great excitement prevailed, nevertheless, in the city against the Christians, which rendered it expedient I should see personally the Pasha, to rouse him from the apathy with which he viewed the disgraceful scenes around him. To my surprise, he was either ignorant, or pretended to be so, of what was occurring within view of his palace, and I had, therefore, some difficulty in persuading him to assemble the Chiefs of the Haras or Quarters, to render them responsible for the public peace.

His Excellency acceded also to my proposals to double the guards during the festivals of the Baïram, to have horse-patrols at night, and to issue an order to prevent the wearing of arms under any pretext whatever.

The laxity of the Pasha in matters of police is beyond conception,—murders are committed with impunity, insults offered without redress, and the roads are unsafe, even within a few miles of the city. The more respectable part of the Turkish population see with regret this disorder; but, being afraid to take any notice of it themselves, they have recommended me to draw his Excellency's attention to it before the populace proceeded to excesses even against the local authorities.

In consequence of my private representations, therefore, his Excellency has decided upon sending nineteen criminals to the bagnio at Acre, in the most public manner possible.

I have also persuaded him to annul the office of the Mutasib, or Excise, and to dismiss and disgrace a favourite of his, who held the post, and had roused the just indignation of the poorer classes and of the Esnafs or corporations, by the heavy and illegal taxes and contributions he levied on all commodities and wares.

The humiliation of the Christians of Lebanon; the burning of their churches within a few miles of Damascus, without due notice being taken of it by the authorities; and otherwise their connivance and indifference in every instance of oppression against them; have greatly raised the confidence of the fanatical Mussulmans, that they will be able to place the Rayah subjects of the Sublime Porte in their former degrading position.

And, as I believe Nejib Pasha would not be averse to see this effected, I avail myself of every opportunity my friendly intercourse with him gives

me, to expose their condition, to gain his sympathy, in order to avert some dire catastrophe that may fall on no less than 4,000 Rayahs resident in this city.

The more bigoted Mussulmans are anxious to destroy the churches that were built in the time of the Egyptians, without any legal permission; but as the Ulemas have apprized me of it, and have promised not to decide upon anything without my concurrence, I entertain the hope of dissuading them from it, until a reference can be made at Constantinople.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 83.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Nejib Pasha.*

*Damas, 13 Novembre, 1841.*

Excellence,

(29 Ramazan, 1257.)

DANS le mois de Gemazi-ul-evel, la Sublime Porte a transmis copie d'un firman Impérial à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople, adressé à votre Excellence, dans lequel il est ordonné impérieusement que les Chrétiens de Damas, sujets de la Sublime Porte, doivent être protégés par les autorités locales, et qu'il leur est permis de conserver leurs costumes et de monter à cheval, sans que personne puisse les molester.

C'est par conséquent avec un vif regret que je viens de recevoir des plaintes formelles de Louis Populani, sujet Anglais, et d'autres Chrétiens habitans de cette ville, qui ont été bâtonnés, insultés, et leurs turbans blancs enlevés de leur tête par vive force, au milieu des rues.

Des employés même de votre Excellence ont été traités ainsi, un fait duquel votre Excellence pourra bien relever l'esprit qui règne aujourd'hui dans la ville confiée à vos soins et à votre gouvernement.

Les coupables se trouvent dans les places nommées Tsourié et Souk Selah, et j'ai, donc, à prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre les mesures que vous croyez à propos pour mettre fin à des scènes si honteuses, et de punir les coupables d'après les lois en vigueur contre ceux qui ont osé et oseront contrevenir à la volonté absolue de Sa Hautesse Impériale, laquelle est bien connue par votre Excellence.

Je profite de cette occasion pour répéter mes instances auprès de votre Excellence pour redoubler les patrouilles pendant ces derniers jours de Ramazan, et pendant les fêtes de Baïram, sans quoi votre Excellence pourra être sûre que des inconvéniens bien sérieux surviendront, au grand déplaisir de Sa Majesté Impériale.

Veuillez, Excellence, &c.,

(L.S.) (Signé) RICHARD WOOD.

(Translation.)

*Damascus, November 13, 1841.*

Excellency,

(29 Ramazan, 1257.)

IN the month of Djemazi-ul-evel the Sublime Porte transmitted to Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople a copy of an Imperial firman, addressed to your Excellency, in which it is strictly enjoined that the Christians of Damascus, subjects of the Sublime Porte, should be protected by the local authorities, and that they are permitted to retain their dress and ride on horseback, without any one being at liberty to molest them.

It is therefore with deep regret that I have just received the formal complaints of Louis Populani, an English subject, and of other Christian inhabitants of this city, who have been beaten, insulted, and their white turbans taken from their heads by force, in the streets.

Even the officers of your Excellency have been so treated, a circumstance from which your Excellency may infer the spirit which prevails at present in the city entrusted to your care and to your government.

The guilty parties are in the places named Tsouric and Souk Selah, and I have therefore to request your Excellency to have the goodness to take the steps which you may deem fit to put an end to such shameful scenes, and to punish the guilty according to the laws in force against those who have dared, and shall dare to oppose the absolute will of His Imperial Highness, which is well known to your Excellency.

I take this opportunity to repeat my suggestions to your Excellency to double the patrols during these last days of Ramazan, and during the fêtes of Bairam, without which your Excellency may be sure that very serious inconvenience will occur, to the great displeasure of His Imperial Majesty.

Be pleased, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 84.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, November 30, 1841.*

WITH reference to my Report of the 20th instant, I have the honour to state that, having been apprized of the intention of his Excellency Nejib Pasha to absent himself for some weeks from Damascus, and that it was the intention of the populace to avail themselves of his absence, to put their threats against the Ravahs into execution, I called upon the Defterdar Effendi, to beg he would assist me in dissuading his Excellency from leaving the city. The Effendi agreed with me in the imprudence of the step, and volunteered to see immediately his Excellency on the subject, provided I waited upon him also the following day, which I did.

His Excellency endeavoured to persuade me that to accompany the pilgrims to Mezareib, was a religious duty; that he was anxious besides to go to the mountains of Adjeloun to chastise the inhabitants for having expelled the Governor; and that there was no danger to be apprehended from this absence.

I observed to his Excellency, that his own Government was so convinced of the impropriety of the Valy of Damascus quitting his post, according to former custom, that it had sent expressly Ahmet Pasha to conduct the pilgrimage in his stead; that I thought it impolitic in him to go in person to punish the people of Adjeloun, when he had so many officers, whom he could charge with this service, and whose defeat, in case of hostilities on the part of the Mountaineers, would not lower so much the authority and dignity of his Sovereign, whose direct representative he was; that as to his presumption with regard to the preservation of the public peace in his absence, his Excellency had only to ask the private opinion of the notables of the city, and he would find that his hopes rested upon very slender grounds; that already the war in Lebanon was attributed in part to his erroneous policy, which would go much to strengthen the assertion of the enemies of the Sublime Porte of its inability to govern its distant provinces; that, consequently, any disaster which may occur during his absence, would add another proof to their statement; and that, finally, after the precaution of his own Government in sending Ahmed Pasha, he could have no excuse, and would have to bear the whole of the responsibility, &c.

With the above and such other arguments, I have succeeded in persuading his Excellency to forego his intention of quitting Damascus for the present, and hope that, with his presence, the ill-disposed will be intimidated from putting into execution their threats and designs.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Mr. John Bidwell.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, December 2, 1841.*

AYOUB PASHA, who was sent to Nejib Pasha by the Seraskier to request verbally the withdrawal of Shibli-el-Arian from the Bekaa, without which the disturbances in Lebanon would never be appeased, stated to me, privately, that the Seraskier was apprehensive of Nejib Pasha's intrigues at Constantinople to displace him; and as he (the Seraskier) thought the civil war would afford his rival an opportunity of injuring him in the estimation of his Government, he was afraid to espouse openly the cause of the Christians against the Druses, who were supported indirectly by him. Ayoub Pasha added, besides, that one of the reasons of the Seraskier's inaction proceeded from his total want of means in troops, money, &c., which prevented him from taking the part that his duty pointed out to him in order not to betray his weakness to the Syrians.

Ayoub Pasha gave me to understand explicitly, though confidentially, that Hadji Etem Bey, the Defterdar, was decidedly opposed to the Druses, and had advised the Seraskier to afford the Christians all the assistance in his power, to prevent the Five Great Powers from accusing the Sublime Porte of connivance at their destruction, which might lead to unpleasant discussions, and even to the presence of European troops in Syria for their protection. He asserted that these were the sentiments of the Bey, and which he intended to convey to the Ottoman Ministers on his return to Constantinople, and asked my opinion, whether he should propose to the Seraskier to send him also to give ampler explanations to the Sublime Porte respecting the general state of affairs in Syria, to afford it the opportunity of understanding better what was going forward, to adopt its measures accordingly.

I have received yesterday the visit of his Excellency Ahmed Pasha, sent by the Sublime Porte to conduct the pilgrimage to Mecca; and his Excellency stated to me, confidentially, that himself, the Seraskier, and Hadji Etem Bey, wrote from Beyrout to the Turkish Government, respecting the civil war, and asked permission to march, if necessary, a strong body of troops against the offending party. I asked which of the two parties was deemed by them the offending one, and his Excellency replied that the Druses had committed the outrage,—had first taken up arms against the Christian subjects of the Sublime Porte, and had, therefore, first violated the sovereign authority. His Excellency further informed me of their joint representations to their Government, respecting the incapacity of the actual Emir to govern under present circumstances, and of their proposal to reinstate the Ex-Emir Beshir, binding him to such conditions as may be judged advisable.

Ahmed Pasha acquainted me, confidentially, with his secret instructions to observe the conduct of the Turkish functionaries, and to report it, together with the state of affairs in Syria; but his Excellency, to my great astonishment, told me that he had simply written to say that, as his manifold occupations had prevented him from fulfilling his secret mission, previous to his departure, they should send some other agent; remarking, however, that this negative kind of report would show the Sublime Porte at once, that both the conduct of its officers, and the state of Syria, were so bad that he did not presume to report thereon.

After quitting Damascus, he sent to desire I would report favourably of him to his Government, if I thought his exertions were deserving of commendation; which I have the more readily promised to do, from a supposition he is destined to hold some high appointment in Syria, on his return from Mecca, and for which he appears to be well qualified.

The mutual jealousies and fears of the Turkish functionaries, it is to be apprehended, will prove finally very prejudicial to the interest of their Government, and of the Syrians in general; but what is greatly to be feared is, the probability of hostilities between them and the Druses, who

have shown a strong disposition to carry out, with perseverance, their plans, independent of every consideration and of every body, and in which they will meet with resistance from the authorities.

Nejib Pasha has reappointed Shibli-el-Arian to his post of Governor of the Haouran, notwithstanding his late defection; but in alluding to the subject in a conversation, his Excellency stated that he was obliged to cajole so formidable a chieftain, not to force him to an open sedition, until he could find the means of arresting him with certainty. Brigadier-General Riza Pasha told me to-day, privately, that Nejib Pasha positively entertained such a plan, and that he had given already orders to watch the movements of his family and children still in Damascus.

In a letter addressed to me from Mount Lebanon, it is intimated that the two old Druse factions, the Djinblatiyé and the Nekediyé, are being revived,—a most unfortunate circumstance, since their mutual rivalry will soon lead to bloodshed among them. The heads of both these factions are striving to be made chiefs of their nation, and if it be correct that the Seraskier has been advised to give one of them the command, the other may have recourse to arms.

### No. 86.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

My Lord.

*Damascus, December 2, 1841.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd November, respecting the proceedings of Shibli-el-Arian, and his apparent defection and meditated attack on Zahlé, I have the honour of transmitting to your Lordship, under No. 1, a translation of the letter I received from the notables of Zahlé, stating their imminent danger, and demanding my intervention with the local authorities, to procure them succour and assistance.

In compliance with their request, I lost no time in communicating personally with his Excellency Nejib Pasha, who issued immediately an order to Emir Hangiar, Governor of Baalbec, to assemble his followers and to repair to Zahlé for its defence.

I was the more impressed with the necessity of protecting Zahlé, from my intimate conviction that, as the Druses had failed in their engagement to desist from further hostilities, and had assembled secretly in the plains of the Bekaa to the amount of 6,000 men, they intended, after taking possession of it, to march into the district of Kesrouan, and then fall on the rear of the Christians that had concentrated there.

No sooner did Emir Hangiar reach Zahlé, than Shibli-el-Arian attacked Sdité, a village within a league of that place, which he burnt, together with the church, after committing some excesses.

This wanton act brought on an action on the 6th of November, between the Druses and the Emir Hangiar, in which the latter was victorious; and I have the honour of inclosing herewith, under Nos. 2 and 3, translations both of his and of the Bishop Basilios' letters, communicating the above intelligence, and asking for ammunition and arms.

Shibli-el-Arian received a musket shot in the neck, but he is not likely to suffer from it more than a temporary inconvenience; his cousin also is reported to be wounded.

On the 5th of November, Sheik Naaman Djinblat made, unexpectedly, his appearance at Damascus, and as he expressed a wish I should accompany him to his Excellency Nejib Pasha, I complied with his request; but neither his Excellency nor myself could elicit from him the causes that gave rise to the war with which he asserted to have no connexion, and which he endeavoured to attribute solely to the turbulent and restless spirit of his nation. He explained his visit to Damascus to his great anxiety to present personally his respects to the Pasha, but on the 8th, he left secretly the city, and joined Shibli-el-Arian and the Druses, that had now assembled from the Lebanon, the Haouran, the Ledgea, and even Jaffa, to the amount of 7,000 men, and on the 12th, headed them in a second attack on Zahlé.

The details of this action, which lasted for four hours, were communicated to me by the Bishop Basilios, in his letter of the 15th ultimo, a translation of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith. The Christians pretend to have driven back the Druses a league and a half, killing 300 of them, and wounding 400.

The opportune arrival and assistance of Emir Hangiar has saved Zahlé from experiencing the fate of Deir-el-Karnmar, whilst it has had, undoubtedly, the effect of paralyzing the warlike proceedings of Shibli-el-Arian, until the arrival of Lieutenant-General Reshid Pasha, with five battalions of Nizam and three field-pieces from Beyrout.

In order to form a diversion, this notorious chief had engaged Emir Kaplan, a rebel, to attack Baalbec with his followers, to compel Emir Hangiar to withdraw from Zahlé, to protect his own district; but so soon as I was informed of it, I begged to see Ayoub Pasha, to whom I represented, in the strongest terms possible, the necessity of replacing the Irregular Cavalry of Emir Hangiar by a strong detachment of 500 horse from hence, with two pieces of cannon, to support the column of Reshid Pasha, which proposal was acceded to immediately.

As was anticipated, these energetic and opportune measures of the Local Government had the desired effect of compelling the Druses to forego their intention of attacking Zahlé a third time, and of obliging them to disperse to their respective homes, according to a letter of Shibli-el-Arian to his Excellency Nejib Pasha: wherein he communicates also, his withdrawal to Rasheya with only 150 Irregular Horse, and his intention of coming to Damascus to procure his Excellency's pardon.

His Excellency has also communicated to me a letter from Reshid Pasha, stating his intention of returning to Beyrout the moment he places Zahlé in a position to repel any sudden attack.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) **RICHARD WOOD.**

Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

*The Notables of Zahlé to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Traduction.)

25 Ramazan, 1257.

IL est nécessaire de confirmer à votre Excellence tout ce qui est survenu et qui continue à survenir dans notre district du Bekaa, soit en massacre, en vol, et en destruction. Les dommages et les malheurs qui ont été faits par Shibli-el-Arian ne pourront pas être réparés dans cent ans, ni mis à leur place. De plus, le commerce a beaucoup souffert; et comme on ne pourra plus percevoir les taxes, nous sommes embarrassés de quelle manière nous devons répondre à la Sublime Porte.

Shibli-el-Arian se fait valoir pour un grand homme et un grand chef, en faisant publier qu'il n'y a personne aussi formidable que lui. En effet il ne fait aucun cas des ordres du Gouvernement, puisqu'il se moque de votre Pacha, ainsi que des autres fonctionnaires de la Sublime Porte.

Il a ruiné tous les villages de ce district, sans que le Gouvernement s'empresse de nous envoyer des troupes et des munitions pour l'empêcher d'étendre ses incursions jusqu'à notre ville même. Nous sommes bien étonnés que le Gouvernement ne fait aucun préparatif pour se battre avec lui; mais s'il nous envoyait un détachement de 500 cavaliers, et donnait l'ordre à l'Emir Hangiar de Baalbec, de nous rejoindre avec autant d'autres, nous le repousserions alors, et même sa force morale s'évanouirait.

Faute de ces moyens, il continue librement de dépouiller les villages, fier de sa force, et en se disant un chef formidable, en contrevenant aux ordres supérieurs qui lui parviennent, et en voulant nommer de lui-même l'Emir Kaplan au Gouvernement de Baalbec.

Nous prions votre Excellence d'intervenir auprès des autorités supérieures, en leur confirmant les faits susmentionnés, qui sont aussi à leur connaissance, et en leur faisant en même tems part des procédés irréguliers de cet individu.



En leur faisant connaître sa force, nous vous prions de vouloir bien demander que des ordres soient donnés à l'Emir Hangiar, qu'il s'unisse à nous pour le battre, et que des troupes et des munitions nous soient envoyées de Damas pour le chasser avec ceux des Druses qui se trouvent auprès de lui.

Nous renouvelons nos prières auprès de vous, Monsieur, afin de prendre en considération les susdits faits ; et en nous reposant avec confiance à votre amour pour l'humanité et à votre influence auprès des autorités, nous vous expédions la présente par un cavalier.

(L.S.) (Signé) Notables de Zahlé.

(Translation.)

25 Ramazan, 1257,

It is necessary to give your Excellency certain information of what has taken place, and continues to take place, in our district of the Bekaa, such as murders, robberies, and destruction. The damages and evils which have been done by Shibli-el-Arian cannot be made good in a hundred years, nor set to rights. Furthermore, commerce has suffered much ; and as the taxes can no longer be collected, we are puzzled how to answer the Sublime Porte.

Shibli-el-Arian represents himself as a great man and a great chief, publishing that there is no one as formidable as himself. In fact, he cares nothing for the orders of the Government, inasmuch as he derides your Pasha, as well as the other functionaries of the Sublime Porte.

He has ruined all the villages of this district, without the Government caring to send us troops and ammunition, so as to prevent him from extending his incursions to this very town. We are greatly astonished that the Government makes no preparation for fighting with him : but were it to send us a detachment of 500 horsemen, and to give orders to the Emir Hangiar of Baalbeck to join us with as many more, we would then drive him back, and even his moral force would vanish.

From the want of such means, he continues freely to plunder the villages, proud of his strength, and calling himself a formidable chief, disobeying the orders which reach him from his superiors ; and desiring on his own authority to name the Emir Kaplan to the government of Baalbeck.

We therefore request your Excellency to intercede with the superior authorities, confirming to them the above-mentioned facts, of which they are already aware, and at the same time letting them know the irregular proceedings of this individual.

In making them acquainted with his strength, we beseech you to ask that orders may be issued to the Emir Hangiar to unite himself with us in order to fight him, and that troops and warlike stores may be sent to us from Damascus to drive him off, with those Druses who are with him.

We repeat our prayer to you, Sir, that you would take into consideration the above-mentioned facts, and, relying with confidence on your love for humanity and on your influence with the authorities, we send you this letter by a horseman

(Signed) Notables of Zahlé.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

*The Emir Hangiar to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Traduction.)

23 Ramazan, 1257.

J'AI reçu votre estimée lettre, et j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que les ordres de son Excellence Nejib Pacha d'empêcher Shibli-el-Arian d'assiéger et de maltraiter les Chrétiens me sont parvenus, et conformément à l'ordre supérieur, je me suis rendu de suite avec mes cavaliers et mes gens à Zahlé. A mon arrivée dans cette ville j'ai su que Shibli-el-Arian s'était rendu au village de Sdité, et qu'il avait brûlé et saccagé les maisons des Chrétiens. Aussitôt je me suis rendu sur les lieux, et je lui ai livré bataille. Le feu dura plus de sept heures : beaucoup de ses

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troupes furent tuées et un grand nombre furent blessées, et j'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer que Shibli-el-Arian lui-même a été blessé, ainsi que son neveu. La nuit seule le sauva, ainsi que ses gens ; mais nous espérons bien, qu'avec votre appui, nous le détruirons complètement, si jamais survient une seconde rencontre.

Je crois nécessaire de vous avertir du manque de munitions de guerre : les deux tiers des habitans de ce district n'ont point d'armes, ce qui va causer des malheurs à l'avenir. Nous en souffrons maintenant. Je me suis vu forcé, par conséquent, de présenter une pétition à son Excellence Nejib Pacha, et veuillez bien, Monsieur, le prier de votre côté, vu l'intérêt que vous portez au bonheur de ces habitans, de nous envoyer 20 caisses de munition, et 200 fusils.

De mon côté, je ferai tout mon possible et j'userai tous les moyens en mon pouvoir de chasser et punir ce rebel, ainsi que sa suite.

Je renouvelle mes instances auprès de vous. Monsieur, pour l'envoi de munitions, puisque Shibli-el-Arian vient d'expédier ses cavaliers dans les villages pour les saccager et réunir un plus fort nombre de cavaliers, afin de nous attaquer ; mais par la grâce de Dieu, et avec votre intervention, nous espérons toujours d'avoir le dessus.

(L.S) (Signé) EMIR HANGIAR.

(Translation.)

23 Ramazan, 1257.

I HAVE received your esteemed letter, and I have the honour to inform you that the orders of his Excellency Nejib Pasha to prevent Shibli-el-Arian from besieging and ill-treating the Christians have reached me, and, in obedience to superior authority, I immediately went with my horsemen and people to Zahlé. On my arrival in that town, I learnt that Shibli-el-Arian had gone to the village Sdité, and that he had burnt and plundered the houses of the Christians. I instantly went to the spot, and engaged with him. The fire lasted more than seven hours ; many of his soldiers were killed and a large number were wounded ; and I have the satisfaction to announce to you that Shibli el-Arian himself was wounded, as well as his nephew. Night alone saved him and his followers ; but we confidently hope that, with your assistance, we shall utterly destroy him, if another action takes place.

I think it necessary to mention to you our want of military stores : two-thirds of the inhabitants of this district have no arms, which will cause some disaster hereafter. We suffer from it at present. I have consequently found myself obliged to present a petition to his Excellency Nejib Pasha : and will you, Sir, on your part, considering the interest which you take in the welfare of the inhabitants, be so good as to request him to send us 20 chests of ammunition, and 200 muskets

For my part, I will do all I can, and will use every means in my power to drive out and chastise this rebel, as well as his followers.

I renew my request to you, Sir, to send us ammunition, inasmuch as Shibli-el-Arian has just sent his horsemen into the villages to plunder them, and collect a greater body of horsemen in order to attack us ; but by God's assistance, and your intervention, we still hope to have the mastery.

(Signed) EMIR HANGIAR.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 86.

*Bishop Basilios of Zahlé to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Traduction )

6 Novembre, 1841.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'expédier en réponse de la mienne, ainsi que celle à l'adresse des notables de Zahlé ; et nous remarquons avec un plaisir infini, tout ce que vous avez bien voulu faire à l'égard de vos esclaves les pauvres et misérables Chrétiens de cette ville, qui ne cessent pas, en reconnaissance, de faire des

prières et des vœux au ciel pour vous, pour votre Gouvernement, et pour la Sublime Porte. Je dois vous assurer de plus, que sans l'intervention de votre influence auprès des autorités, nous ne serions pas délivrés des malheurs que Shibli-el-Arian voulait nous faire essuyer.

L'ordre qui fut expédié par son Excellence Néjib Pacha à l'Emir Hangiar, d'attaquer Shibli-el-Arian, étant parvenu à l'Emir, il s'est hâté de se rendre ici aussitôt, accompagné d'un grand nombre de ses troupes.

Le 5 courant un des habitans Chrétiens du village de Sdité vint nous annoncer que les cavaliers de ce chef étaient venus pour le brûler. Aussitôt l'Emir Hangiar s'est rendu sur les lieux avec une partie de sa cavalerie et des habitans d'ici, et livra bataille aux Druses, qui dura huit heures, et lesquels il a mis en déroute.

Nous venons d'apprendre dans ce moment, que 105 Druses furent tués et 90 blessés. De notre côté il n'y a eu que 4 de tués et 10 de blessés. Les habitans de Zahlé ainsi que de ses alentours doivent tout ce bonheur à l'empressement que vous avez mis d'intercéder pour nous auprès de Néjib Pacha.

Nous espérons et faisons des vœux que par vos moyens et ceux de son Excellence Néjib Pacha, nous vaincrons toujours les Druses qui sont opposés au Gouvernement et aux autorités, et dont leur but n'est que de voler, massacrer, tuer, et être rébelle à leur souverain.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,

(L.S.) (Signé) BASILIOS.

(Translation.)

*November 6, 1841.*

I HAVE had the honour of receiving the letter which you have been good enough to send to me in reply to mine, as well as that addressed to the notables of Zahlé; and we observe with infinite pleasure all that you have been kind enough to do for your slaves, the poor and miserable Christians of this city, who, out of gratitude, never cease to offer up prayers and vows to Heaven for you, for your Government, and for the Sublime Porte. I should also assure you that, without your interference with the authorities, we should never have been delivered from the misfortunes which Shibli-el-Arian wished to make us experience.

The order which was sent by his Excellency Nejib Pasha, to the Emir Hangiar, to attack Shibli-el-Arian, having reached the Emir, he hastened to come hither at once, accompanied by a large number of his troops.

On the 5th instant, one of the Christian inhabitants of the village of Sdité, came to announce to us that the horsemen of that chief had arrived there to burn it. Immediately the Emir Hangiar went to the spot with a portion of his cavalry and of the inhabitants of this place, and engaged the Druses, for the space of eight hours, and put them to flight.

We have just learnt that 105 Druses were killed, and 90 wounded. On our side there were only four killed and ten wounded. The inhabitants of Zahlé, as well as the neighbouring country, owe all this good fortune to the alacrity with which you interceded with Nejib Pasha in our favour.

We hope and pray that by means of you and his Excellency Nejib Pasha, we shall ever vanquish the Druses who are opposed to the Government and to the authorities, and whose object is only to steal, massacre, kill, and rebel against their sovereign.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) BASILIOS.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 86.

*Bishop Basilios to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Traduction.)

*15 Novembre, 1841.*

JE crois vous avoir confirmé, Monsieur, le combat qui a eu lieu entre Shibli-el-Arian, l'Emir Hangiar, et les habitans de cette ville, et comment Shibli fut défait avec ses troupes, et lui-même blessé au cou.

Après l'arrivée de Galib Bey, envoyé par son Excellence Selim Pacha, de Beyrout avec des ordres de le reconnaître comme Gouverneur provisoire de Zahlé et du Bekaa, pour la tranquillité des habitans, il nous a promis de renvoyer Shibli d'ici. Il s'est rendu donc auprès de lui et nous a averti à son retour, que Shibli partirait le lendemain. Mais, à notre grand étonnement, le lendemain nous le vîmes paraître avec Sheik Naaman et autres chefs Druses du Liban et du Haouran au nombre de 7,000, entre cavaliers et piétons, en quatre divisions, afin de se rendre maîtres de Zahlé. Aussitôt tous les habitans ont pris leurs places dans la ville même en petits groupes, cachés derrière les murs, et dans les rues, et le feu commença avec acharnement. Au bout de trois heures, les troupes de l'Emir Hangiar mirent en déroute les Druses à qui on a donné la chasse pour une heure et demie.

Les Druses ont perdu dans cette bataille 300 hommes de tués, et 400 de blessés. De notre côté nous n'avons eu de tués que 7 hommes et 18 de blessés.

Cette rencontre a été des plus extraordinaires, vû que nous étions moins nombreux que les Druses, eux rebelles à leur Gouvernement, et nous les serviteurs dévoués de la Sublime Porte.

Les Chrétiens ont servi avec attachement la Sublime Porte, tandis que Shibli-el-Arian continue toujours à brûler et saccager les villages. Je me fais, donc, un devoir de mettre ces faits à votre considération, Monsieur, afin qu'avec votre bonté accoutumée vous preniez les mesures nécessaires pour le bonheur et la tranquillité de la population de ces contrées qui ne cessent de faire des vœux pour votre prospérité.

J'ai l'honneur, &c..

(L.S.) (Signé) BASILIOS.

(Translation.)

*November 15, 1841.*

I BELIEVE that I have already given you certain intelligence of the fight which took place between Shibli-el-Arian, the Emir Hangiar, and the inhabitants of this city, and of the way in which Shibli and his troops were defeated, and he himself wounded in the neck.

After the arrival of Galib Bey, sent by his Excellency Selim Pasha from Beyrout with orders to recognize him provisionally as Governor of Zahlé and Bekaa, for the purpose of securing tranquillity to the inhabitants, he promised to send Shibli away from here. He went therefore to him, and on his return made known to us that Shibli would depart the next day. But, to our great astonishment, the next day we saw him appear in company with Sheik Naaman and other Druse chiefs of the Lebanon and of the Haouran, to the number of 7,000, cavalry and infantry together, in four divisions, in order to make themselves masters of Zahlé. Immediately all the inhabitants took their places in the town itself in small detachments, hidden behind walls, and in the streets, and the firing began with much fury. After three hours the troops of the Emir Hangiar put the Druses to flight, and they were pursued for an hour and a half.

The Druses lost in this battle 300 men killed and 400 wounded. On our side we had only 7 killed and 18 wounded.

This has been one of the most extraordinary conflicts, inasmuch as our numbers were fewer than that of the Druses, they rebels against their Government, and we devoted servants of the Sublime Porte.

The Christians have served the Sublime Porte with affection, whilst Shibli-el-Arian still continues to burn and pillage the villages. I consider it my duty, therefore, to submit these facts for your consideration, in order that, with your accustomed kindness, you may take the necessary steps for the happiness and tranquillity of the people of these countries, who never cease to pray for your prosperity.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) BASILIOS

No. 87.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

My Lord.

*Damascus, December 2, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship translation of a letter addressed to me by the Emir Beshir, after his late surrender and arrival at Beyrout, reminding me of the promises I made to him of protection, both from Her Majesty's Government and the Sublime Porte, in the event of his returning to his allegiance to the Sultan.

Previous to the commencement of hostilities on the coast of Syria, I received from his Excellency Lord Ponsonby, a letter written by the Grand Vizier to the ex-Emir Beshir, recalling that Prince to his duty to the Sultan; but as circumstances led me to believe he might refuse to unite with the Allies against the Viceroy, I suggested the expediency of having a firman superseding him, addressed to the present Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, to meet such a contingency, and which firman was sent to me accordingly.

After some weeks spent in fruitless negotiations with the ex-Emir, and twenty-eight days after the commencement of hostilities, I could no longer delay superseding him without impeding seriously the military operations; and, with the concurrence of their Excellencies Sir Robert Stopford and Izzet Pasha, I proceeded, on the 8th of October, 1840, to the camp of the mountaineers, and invested the present Prince with the government of Mount Lebanon; and, in my double capacity of British and Turkish Agent, I promised him and the rest of the Emirs and Sheiks, protection in their different appointments, should their military services show them deserving of it.

The Prince has evinced his fidelity and attachment to his Sovereign by his hearty co-operation during the whole of the war; but circumstances beyond his control have intervened since, which have deprived him, for the present *de facto*, though not nominally so, of the government confided to him.

In acknowledging the receipt of his letter, I have stated, in reply, that I would communicate it to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 87.

*The Emir Beshir to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

*Beyrout, November 13, 1841.*

I HAVE had the pleasure of writing to you some days ago, giving you an exact account of the affairs that had occurred at Deir-el-Kammar. During the twenty-four days that I was besieged, instead of receiving aid, the Seraskier sent me only two individuals to invite me to repair to Beyrout for the security of my person, to which I consented, after mature reflection, seeing that I had neither provisions nor ammunition, and the town was destroyed.

Before I quitted the town of Deir-el-Kammar, I demanded of the Druse Sheiks to be allowed to leave it with my people without receiving any insult,—to which effect they signed a paper, adding that I may leave with safety; but to my great astonishment, the instant I left my house, the Druses robbed and insulted both myself and my people; a faithful report of which transaction I have given to his Excellency the Seraskier.

Selim Pasha and the Consuls went to Shoofaat, where they met the Chiefs of the Druses, who promised to remain quiet, and to refrain from molesting any further the Christians; but on the return of these gentlemen, they recommenced their havoc and slaughter.

So soon as I was informed that they had failed in their word, I com-

municated immediately the circumstance to their Excellencies Selim Pasha and the Defterdar Effendi, pointing out to them, at the same time, the means of punishing them, and of adjusting these affairs; but I have never received any reply from them, from which I infer that the authorities do not wish for my interference.

His Excellency has sent a few troops to some villages; but the Druses continue to pillage and burn them, which has brought misery on the Mountain, and on its inhabitants.

As on my arrival here I had engaged to take upon myself the adjustment of these affairs, and the Authorities never gave me an answer, I cannot understand what are their intentions. I have always been a most devoted servant of the Sublime Porte, which I have served with attachment and fidelity from the commencement of the war agreeably to the orders received from your Government, through your medium (you having remained a guarantee for me); and now I see myself abandoned by the Authorities, contrary to my hopes, notwithstanding my fidelity to the Ottoman Porte; but I entertain the belief that it will not forsake a servant that has served, and will still serve, with attachment, more especially as I have your letter of the 13th August, 1840, and that of Commodore Sir Charles Napier, wherein you state that the Sublime Porte will never forget the services that I may render. I feel, therefore, certain, that what with the faithful promises of the Sublime Porte and with your friendship, I shall not be left in my present condition; the more so, as I am convinced the Sublime Porte will never permit one of its faithful servants to be insulted by the rebellious Druses; and that it will not lend any weight to the memorials presented against me by persons of an evil disposition, since it is better able to judge of my fidelity and of my alacrity to obey all its orders.

I greatly trust that you will not forget your promises, and that you will exert your utmost efforts to preserve to me the benefit of my services, especially at a moment I expected countenance from the Sublime Porte, instead of being left with my nation to the mercy of the Druses.

(L.S.) (Signed) EMIR BESHIR EL-KASSIM.

#### No. 88.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, December 4, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state that having received indirect information of the intention of the Maronites not to receive Selim Bey, sent by his Excellency the Seraskier to the district of Kesrouan, for the adjustment of their affairs, and afraid lest their mistrust of the Turkish Authorities should lead them to commit some act, which, added to their other acts, would wholly indispose the Turks towards them, I wrote a private letter to the Patriarch, reminding him of his solemn promise to remain always a faithful adherent of the Sublime Porte, upon which promise Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople had procured for him, and for the Lebanites, without distinction, so many special favours and privileges.

The Patriarch in his reply, a translation of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith, expresses his devotion to the Sublime Porte, and has transmitted to me besides, as a proof thereof, the Seraskier's bouyourouldi in answer to the memorial of the Maronites.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 88.

*The Maronite Patriarch to Mr. Wood.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

November 17, 1841.

YOU are pleased to note the necessity of obeying the orders of their Excellencies the Authorities, that the Sublime Porte may be pleased and satisfied with the Maronites. On this head feel no uneasiness, for they are and will always remain submissive and obedient to the Sublime Porte, the councils of which they will follow, and will refrain from further hostilities, from which they have experienced so much evil themselves; for their antagonists, the Druses, have availed themselves of the opportunity to carry out their plans and sinister intentions. They have deceived the Turkish Authorities, and have slaughtered the Christians; but in order to prove to you the obedience of the latter, I inclose herewith the bouyourouldi of the Seraskier, addressed to them.

As I am convinced, Sir, of the sincerity of your desire for the tranquillity and general prosperity of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, and of the great trouble you have taken for their interests in general, I sincerely trust that your efforts will be crowned with success in this instance also.

(L.S.)

(Signed)

YUSSUF HABESH.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

*Selim Pasha's Bouyourouldi to the Emirs, Sheiks, and Chiefs, of the population of Kesrouan.*

Beyrout, November 12, 1841,

(28 Ramazan, 1257 )

(Translation.)

I HAVE received your memorial containing the expression of your submission and obedience to the Sublime Porte; and you state besides the proceedings of Shibli-el-Arian against Zahlé and other villages, all of which I have duly noted.

In order to prevent Shibli-el-Arian and others from executing their purpose, I have sent Reshid Pasha with five battalions of Nizam, some irregulars, and three pieces of cannon, ammunition, &c., and I hope that on the arrival of his Excellency, he will prevent the misfortunes you anticipate, and will restore happiness to the inhabitants of Zahlé and of the other villages. I send you this order for your tranquillity, and trust that on your part, you will remain obedient and quiet, that you may merit the esteem of the Sublime Porte.

(L.S.)

(Signed)

MOHAMMED SELIM PASHA.

## No. 89.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, January 31, 1842.

I HAVE received your despatches from the 10th November to that of the 7th of December inclusive.

Her Majesty's Government are glad to perceive that, for the present at least, hostilities have ceased between the Druses and the Maronites; and they trust that the interference of Mustapha Pasha, who has been selected by the Porte to proceed to Syria instead of Yacoub Pasha, will have a salutary effect, not only by bringing about a reconciliation between the rival parties in the Lebanon, but generally by placing affairs in Syria on a better footing, as well for the inhabitants as for the Porte.



Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the principle on which you have acted for effecting a settlement of differences between the Druses and the Maronites. They have no desire that you should be the partizan of either of those sects, or should encourage one more than the other to count upon the good-will of the British Government. But you cannot err in stating explicitly to both, that if they wish for that good-will, and conceive that advantage can result to them from possessing it, they must establish their claim to it by abstaining from hostilities among themselves, and by proving their obedience to the Sultan and to his officers.

As the appearance of cordial concert between the Representatives of Foreign Powers will afford the best proof that these Powers have no separate objects of their own in Syria, Her Majesty's Government approve of your having, as stated in your despatch of November 19, 1841, accepted of the co-operation of the French Consul for the preservation of peace.

I think it right, however, to state to you that a report has reached Her Majesty's Government that the Porte has expressed dissatisfaction at your conduct, though as yet no formal complaint has been made against you. The approbation of your proceedings which I have frequently had the satisfaction of conveying to you, will assure you that Her Majesty's Government would not easily be disposed to attach credit to any such imputations; and you will see in the despatch to Sir Stratford Canning, of which I inclose a copy\*, that I have not hesitated to instruct that Ambassador to vindicate your conduct against any complaints which the Porte may be so unreasonable as to prefer.

I cannot, indeed, give you a better proof of the approbation of Her Majesty's Government than by acquainting you that I have requested the Secretary of State for War and Colonies, to recommend to the Queen that Her Majesty should be graciously pleased to nominate you to be a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

#### No. 90.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 8, 1842.)*

My Lord,

*Beyroul, December 19, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that the news received from the disturbed districts add confirmation to the supposition that the Turkish Authorities favour unduly the Druses at the cost of the Christians; that in the second week of this month, accounts reached Beyroul that the Druse Sheik of Hotb Elias, a village about an hour from Zahlé, Hamood Ayt Allah, had put to death two Christian inhabitants, and forced the remainder of them to leave their homes. Although a petition was on this subject addressed to Mustapha Bey, the Turkish commanding officer at Zahlé, he took no steps to punish the perpetrators of the outrage.

Reshid Pasha, before he left Zahlé, having desired its inhabitants to cease hostilities and resume their occupations, a Zahliote of the name of Mursous, proceeded to sell turpentine at a village, Dahur Almur, a league and a half off; having been recognized by Druses in that place as having been active in the defence of Zahlé, he was taken before Shibli Arian, who caused him to be beheaded, and his mules to be sold. No steps were taken by the Turkish Authorities to punish Shibli Arian.

On the other hand two Christians, of the name of Boukuttis, cousins, one an inhabitant of Faluga, and the other of Zahlé, persons of a respectable station, whilst proceeding on horseback from Zahlé to Baalbec, shot a Druse and his daughter, inhabitants of Dulkamayé, whilst working in their garden. The only reason for this act assigned by the friends of the culprit being, that the Druse, a year or two previously, had applied abusive language to the Christians.

Mustapha Bey appears to have devoted the whole of his energy to the

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detection of the unknown murderers of the Druse and his daughter, but to have taken no steps for bringing to punishment either Shibli el Arian, or the Druse Sheik of Hobb Elias; he selected some of the elders of Zahlé, imprisoned them till they should denounce the Christian culprits, who were supposed to be from Zahlé. One of them was shortly afterwards delivered to him by some of the Zahlites, and the name of the other having been given to Mustapha Bey, he seized his father, and sent both him and the guilty Christian in chains to Beyrout.

A Dragoman of the Austrian Vice-Consul, dressed as an Egyptian, was standing near the Defterdar's house, when he heard a Druse endeavouring to make himself understood by a Turkish kavass of the Defterdar's. He interpreted for these two persons, who took him for an Egyptian. The Druse complained that he belonged to the Emir Emin Raslan, a Druse chief, that his arms had been taken from him at the Pines, two miles from Beyrout, by a Turkish detachment. The kavass said that this must have been a mistake; for that the order was, that the arms should be taken from the Christians and not from the Druses, and that he would rectify the same.

The attack on the property of the Christians at Deir-el-Kammar, still carried on in that town by the Druse chiefs Nasif Bey and Sheik Hamood, under the eyes of the newly-appointed Turkish Governor and of the Turkish garrison, together with the continued forays of the Druse Sheik, Yousuff Abd-el-Melek, and other minor chiefs, produced a feeling of deep depression amongst the Christians, and strengthened their belief that policy and sympathy had induced the Turkish Government to abandon the Christians, and to favour the Druses. Other statements, still more injurious to the character of the Turkish authorities also began to be circulated; that large bribes in money, fruits of the plunder of the Christians, had been given to them by the Druses, for the purpose of preventing their interference in putting an end to their depredations. I regret to say that suspicions attach even to the Seraskier, Selim Pasha. The Emir Beshir, after making frequent allusions to this circumstance, stated at last, that he had information on which he could rely, that Selim Pasha had received a large bribe from the Druse chiefs, which was conveyed to him by Fatahi, a man of extremely bad character whom he made Governor of Deir-el-Kammar and its extensive districts. The Emir Beshir said that the bribe, consisting of three large packages of money, was conveyed to the Seraskier's house in the beginning of this month, at night, from Fataha's.

So convinced is the Emir Beshir of the guilt of Selim Pasha, that he had the boldness to allude, not indirectly, to it at a meeting on the 13th instant, of the Seraskier Selim Pasha, the Defterdar, Mustapha Pasha, and Ayoub Pasha. The Emir Beshir said that he should like to make an example of the Druses; that they required a lesson. Ayoub Pasha said, that a good master did not strike his pupils: on which the Emir Beshir replied, that a school master seldom struck those of his pupils who were rich, and could pay; but that he vented all his anger on his poorer scholars; meaning that the Seraskier had favoured the Druses, because they, rich with the Christians' plunder, had bribed his Excellency, but had oppressed the impoverished Christians.

The state of feeling amongst the Christians which I have described, and their repeated declarations that, if not supported, they would form bands of armed parties, and seek redress or satisfaction of the Druses, or be destroyed, induced the Russian and French Consuls and myself, to make a statement of affairs to the Seraskier, on the 11th instant.

His Excellency said that he would order the Christian who was detained as a hostage for his son, but who was not guilty, to be set at liberty; that he would write to Mustapha Bey, at Zahlé, to arrest the guilty Druses, and enjoin the Turkish Governor of Deir-el-Kammar, to prevent further attacks on Christian property.

I have, &c..  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 8.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, December 28, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that the apprehensions which were entertained of an outbreak of Mussulman fanaticism in this country have diminished since the repulse of the Druses at Zahlé, and the cessation of hostilities.

Towards the end of last month, some Turks of this town had formed a plan to interrupt the passage of a funeral of a respectable Christian, to compel the persons attending it to desist from singing, and take away the cross which is carried before the coffin in this country. The day after this had occurred, I requested Omar Beyhoom, the leading Mahometan of Beyrout, with whom I was acquainted, to come to me; he admitted, that the occurrence which I have stated had taken place, but that it was strongly reprobated by all respectable Mahometans. I represented to him the impolicy of the display of religious feeling on the part of Mahometans towards Christians, and how much it would grieve and disappoint the inhabitants of Great Britain, whose countrymen in India show such tolerance and kindness towards Mahometans, who repay it with a similar feeling. Omar Beyhoom said, eagerly, that he was quite aware of these facts, and that no aggression need be apprehended by the Christians; for that, although there might be some ignorant or ill-disposed Mussulmans, the great majority, and all respectable members of that body, never would countenance acts of violence towards Christians. He assured me also, that, in Damascus, where the anti-Christian feeling of the Mussulman population has caused the most alarm, there would be no general ebullition of ultra Mahometan feeling.

In opposition to Omar Beyhoom's statement, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship the following extracts.

Mr. Clapperton, the Vice-Consul in Tarsous, in a despatch to me of the 20th November, says, "I have the honour to inform you, that a spirit of hostility and persecution has lately shown itself against the servants and protected of the European Consuls, and against Christians in general, by the Mussulman population of Adana and Tarsous, which if not speedily repressed, will lead to very disastrous results. So much is it so, that it is dangerous for a Christian to demand money which is due to him from a Mussulman, except in a most abject manner."

Captain Richardson, of Her Majesty's steamer "Phoenix," also, in a letter to Captain Michell of the 22nd December, says, "Having called at Sidon, in compliance with your order, I arrived at this port, and placed myself in communication with the Consular Agent here. The presence of Her Majesty's steam-vessel, I find, gives great confidence to the Christians, and they state, that it effectually prevents them being insulted by the Mutualis and Turkish authorities. The latter, although not guilty of direct acts of violence, invariably refuse the Christians redress for any complaint they bring before them.

"On Reshid Pasha's passing through the town on his way to Acre, the Christians presented a petition to him, complaining of the unequal taxation under which they laboured; he reduced the sum required of them considerably; but immediately on his leaving the town, the military Governor insisted on the original sum being paid. They are, I understand, preparing another petition on this subject to Selim Pasha. The civil Governor, or Mutselim, Beiram Aga, also shows all the hostility in his power towards the Christians."

Captain Pring and myself, and subsequently Captain Michell, of Her Majesty's ship "Inconstant," having agreed that the presence of Her Majesty's ships of war at the different ports on the coast, would probably reassure the Christians, and check the tendency to oppress them, which feeling certainly does exist amongst Mussulmans, and which is not discouraged, as it ought to be, by the Turkish authorities, several men-of-war have visited the different ports, and produced, by so doing, a very good effect.

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Reshid Pasha, Governor of Acre, made a singular admission, but one which caused me no surprise, not long since, to the French Consul; his Excellency said, "The Turks cannot regain their lost position and influence unless they return to fanaticism."

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 92.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, December 28, 1841.*

IN my previous despatches to your Lordship, I have had the honour to represent, that not an ill-founded supposition exists in this country, that the four Sheiks who came from Egypt at the beginning of this year, and who had been decorated and favoured by Mehemet Ali, were commissioned by him to excite disorder in the Lebanon, in order to further his Highness's views.

In confirmation of this opinion, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a statement from Ibrahim Mishihia, a wealthy Greek Catholic merchant, lately resident in Deir-el-Kammar; his house was burnt, his brother killed, and his property pillaged by the Druses, and he considers Nasif Bey as his greatest enemy; his statement, therefore, should be viewed with a certain caution, but it is very much confirmed by previous circumstantial evidence, which I had the honour to detail in my previous despatches, and by another statement, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy to your Lordship, and which I have lately received from Abusumra, a Maronite, who showed talent and courage as a leader in the late hostilities; during them, he made prisoner of a foot messenger near Sidon, who was conveying letters from Alexandria to Sidon and Beyrout. The two Druse chiefs, Hootoor Bey and Abd-is-Sellam Bey, mentioned in Abusumra's statement, were two of the chiefs decorated by Mehemet Ali.

It is supposed that, after the collision at Bakalein on the 14th September of this year, when the Druses were taken by surprise by the Christians, that the former people made decided preparations for the attack on the Christians, and that the intercepted letters from Abdallah-el-Hallibi to the Druse chiefs Hootoor Bey and Abd-is-Sellam Bey, refer to these preparations.

Naaman Bey, who is come to Beyrout by order of the Turkish authorities, denies all connexion with Mehemet Ali. He states, that it was only natural that Mehemet Ali should have shown favour to himself and the other Druse chiefs who were persons of consequence; and that it is impossible that he, who had shown his confidence and esteem for Great Britain by sending his brother to be educated in that country, should be agent of Mehemet Ali, whose return to Syria must be in opposition to the wishes of the British Government. I do not think that the reasons assigned by Naaman Bey are valid; he may not be so deeply connected with Mehemet Ali as the other chiefs, but I think that he was and still may be connected with Mehemet Ali, although certainly his policy and deep cunning may have induced him to break off his connexions with his Highness.

It is possible that the connexion between Mehemet Ali and the ex-Emir Beshir now in Constantinople, has never been broken off, and that, in common, they are still endeavouring to advance their interests; it is remarked, that none of the ex-Emir Beshir's or his family's houses or palaces have been attacked or burnt by the Druses. The daughter-in-law of the ex-Emir was escorted with marked attention by Druses from Deir-el-Kammar to Beyrout; these circumstances, however, may be explained in two ways.

1st. Because a very influential Druse, Hemade, is agent of the ex-Emir Beshir.

2nd. Because the Druses, since the return of the ex-Emir Beshir to

Constantinople in a British man-of-war steamer, consider his return to Syria and power as a very probable event.

The feeling against the present Beshir is so strong amongst the Druses, that it is the general opinion, that the attempt to re-establish him in authority—which in a great measure he has ceased to exercise—would cause a fresh breaking out of hostilities. Amongst the Maronites, there is a general conviction of his incapacity; but the hostility of the Druses towards him has produced a certain degree of favourable feeling amongst that people towards his Highness.

The adherents of the ex-Emir Beshir and of his son the Emir Emin, have increased also considerably, because his Highness has given out, through his agents, that he is to return; he has even directed the purchase of horses for his use, and there is therefore a general belief that he will return, and all wish to conciliate one who once kept all in subjection, and who possibly may do so again.

The despair also which has been produced by the total want of order and of Government, and the consequent insecurity of life and property in the Lebanon, induce many of those who were formerly his enemies, to wish for the return of one who, they think, would remedy those evils.

The resumption of power by the ex-Emir Beshir would certainly be very prejudicial to the credit of the British Government.

1st. Because it will be supposed that the British Government, who removed him last year, have now sanctioned his return; and it is believed in this country, that he was removed from power as much on account of his tyranny and his exactions, as on account of his adherence to Mehemet Ali, and opposition to the policy of the Allied Powers.

2nd. Mr. Wood, in September last, announced, as he was authorized by the Porte to do, that the ex-Emir Beshir would never return to power; Mr. Moore and myself, consequently, made the same announcement to the numerous inquiries for information on this subject.

The appointment, then, of the Emir Emin would not be subject to the same objections as that of the ex-Emir Beshir, and he would have the advantage of his father's wealth; he bears a good character, and is not unpopular; but it is urged against him that he is bigoted in religious matters.

His connexion with Butros Kerami, his father's secretary, who was an agent of Mehemet Ali, and a cousin of Bakri Bey, one of Mehemet Ali's council, and his former Minister of Finance in Syria, is against him; for, independently of Butros Kerami's connexion, he is one of the most cruel and corrupt persons who ever held office in Syria, and his return would be disastrous to Lebanon. The Emir Emin must also be intimately connected with another great friend of his father, and his companion at present at Constantinople, the Greek Catholic Patriarch Maximus, who is a fanatic.

#### Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

*Statement made by Ibrahim Mishihia.*

(Translation.)

*Beyrout, December 19, 1841.*

THE four Druse Sheiks, Naaman Dijnblat Bey, Hootoor Amoud Bey, Nasif Abuneked, and Abd-is-Sellam Bey, received decorations and presents in Egypt on the understanding that they were to be faithful to the Egyptian Government. Nasif Bey was answerable for, or guaranteed the observance of this agreement. They were afterwards sent to Gaza, to act with the reinforcements of troops which were sent from Egypt to Syria, in support of Mehemet Ali. They were engaged with the troops of the Sultan at Medgdel. From Gaza they wrote letters to their friends, desiring them not to take part in the affairs of the Sultan, but to keep themselves aloof, as they, or since they, the four Druse Sheiks, had arrived, or were coming for the purpose of assisting the interests of the Egyptian Government; they were not able to send these letters, but they

stated their contents verbally. I have only heard the above particulars from Nasif Bey, who, together with the other Druse Chiefs, continued to intrigue after their return to Syria.

After their arrival in Syria, Nasif Bey received two letters from Bakri Bey, from Egypt, in which the latter asked Nasif Bey, "If he were still of the same mind, or in the same understanding in which he had been when in Egypt." Nasif Bey told the Christian who presented him with the letter, to answer "That he was of the same mind." After this, three months ago, he, Nasif Bey, endeavoured to send a letter from himself, as he said, by means of a priest, a Greek Catholic, to Alexandria, and he asked me to procure him such a messenger. Ibrahim Mishihia declined to have anything to do with this affair, when Nasif Bey said that, "You are afraid to mix in this business, but I shall find one who will do my bidding."

If Colonel Rose were in my situation, that is, said he, to have seen and known what I have seen and known, he would be able to make an oath that Nasif Bey is an agent of Mehemet Ali, although I am not so certain as to Naaman Bey, and Abd-is-Sellam Bey, and Hootoor Bey.

#### Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

*Statement of Abusunra, a Maronite leader.*

(Translation.)

*Beyrout, December 10, 1841.*

ONE of my men in the beginning of November last, took a foot messenger near Sidon, who was the bearer of two letters, one for Hootoor Bey, and another for Abd-is-Sellam Bey. I opened these letters which came from Abdallah-el-Hallibi, who, after the first collision in Deir-el-Kamaar at Bakalein, had been sent with letters to Sami Bey, confidential Private Secretary to Mehemet Ali. The contents of the letters were as follows:—

"I give you notice from Alexandria. I gave the letter to Sami Bey in Alexandria, and the second I gave to the Bey, who lives a long way from Egypt, and he perceives very much what you have done, and all that you do is excellent: and it is necessary that you should be strengthened (*fortificati*), and afterwards I will send you another letter which will suffice for your business (*affari*).

"Two days after I had given the letter to Sami Bey he went into Egypt, and all the Bakkawat (great and leading people) are very much pleased with what you have done, and salute you."

The messenger was a Bedouin, such as one sees at Gaza; the man who took him, asked him, who gave him the letter, he said, "A Druse in Alexandria." He, the messenger, had other letters for merchants in Sidon and in Beyrout, but there was nothing of consequence in them.

#### No. 93.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 8.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, December 30, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that Mustapha Pasha, Minister of War to the Porte, arrived here on the 24th instant, in a Turkish man-of-war steamer, from Constantinople, which he left on the 18th instant. He was accompanied by another steamer. Upwards of a thousand troops came in these vessels and the Austrian steamer, which arrived on the 26th instant.

The troops had good kits, and landed in fair order.

Immediately after Mustapha Pasha had landed, Captain Michell of Her Majesty's ship "Inconstant," Mr. Werry, and myself, waited on his Excellency.

Mustapha Pasha did not rise, but received us in other respects



civilly: his manner, however, and his conversation, evinced irritation. He said, that the reports with respect to the state of this country were exaggerated; that Great Britain had been in possession of the Ionian Islands for a length of time, but that even now, quiet was not established; that the Turkish Government had only reacquired lately possession of Syria, and that, therefore, allowances should be made for her. I had said nothing, when he made these remarks. The deduction which both Mr. Werry and myself drew from the interview with the Seraskier, was, that his Government, as well as himself, were displeased with the remonstrances which had been made to the Porte by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, in consequence of the recent reports transmitted to their Excellencies by the foreign agents in Syria, on the state of the country, and the inaction of the Turkish Authorities; and that the manifestation made by sending his Excellency with the steamers and troops, was not a voluntary one, but the result of the representations of the Ambassadors.

The conviction which I before felt, that the policy of the Turkish Authorities in this country, in allowing the civil war to continue betwixt the Druses and Maronites, had been secretly authorized by the Porte, was very much confirmed by my interview, for the following reasons.

Since the resumption of power by the Sultan, in this country, the Turkish Government had found the Maronites troublesome subjects.

The Druses had also made opposition to the authorities on the subject of the taxes, but then, the Druses had offered to pay all the taxes and the tariff, provided the Porte would place over them a Mussulman Prince, and they, the Druses, had refused to petition France, as the Maronites, through their Bishop Tubia, the representative of the Patriarch, proposed to do at the meeting of Ainoob; besides the Druses never relied on, or accepted offers of, physical assistance, as the Maronites did from a Foreign Power.

The Turks were well aware of these facts; they knew that the Maronites not only disliked them and their Government, but that they would be ready at the first convenient opportunity to get rid both of one and the other.

On the other hand, a consciousness of their own weakness, and the idea that the European Powers might not approve an attack on the Maronites, induced the Turks to avail themselves of the services of the Druses against their hereditary enemies, the Maronites, and thereby effect the two-fold object of their policy, the subjection and punishment of the Maronites, without incurring the risk of defeat, or of an effectual remonstrance from the European Powers.

The policy of the Turks was unprincipled, but this consideration does not generally weigh with them, provided it be successful.

The Porte then, urged by the Ambassadors, felt that she must take some steps in favour of order in Syria, but still, that it was desirable not to give up the fruits of their policy, or to sacrifice the servants, who had carried it out.

They therefore resolved to make a demonstration, and sent the Minister of War, with three Pashas, two steamers, and a thousand men.

Mustapha Pasha is more a man of the world, and has better abilities, than Selim Pasha, and the civil war being over, can disguise the Turkish policy better than the Seraskier; but still facts prove that their mode of proceeding is the same, for

1. Mustapha Pasha has questioned and denied the right of the Maronites to be governed by a Maronite Prince.

2. He has stated to them, that although they may have the numerical majority, they are not the most influential class in the Lebanon, because they have been vanquished by the Druses.

3. He has fended off the question, urged by the Christians, of the restoration of the pillaged property.

4. The Druse Chiefs, two of whom were the principal plunderers in the late hostilities, were observed to be contented and pleased when they retired from his presence, after a secret conference, but the Christians, after a similar meeting, were dejected, and expressed fears for their future state.



5. Shibli-el-Arian, one of the props of the Druse party, has gone to Damascus since the arrival of Mustapha Pasha; he has received a full pardon for all his offences, and payment of his arrears of pay has been promised to him; yet Shibli-el-Arian disarmed the Christians of Hasbeya and Rasbeya, gave their arms to the Druses, to whom he distributed also forty-seven barrels of gunpowder, English ammunition, I regret to say, which had been given to the Emir Said-el-Deen by Lieutenant-General Jochmus. This Chief (Nejib Pasha affects to say against his orders) carried on a regular war against the Christians of the valley of the Bekaa, besieged Zahlé for nearly three weeks, and his last act, after the formal cessation of hostilities, was to cut off the head of a Christian and seize his property; and yet this person receives marks of favour from the Turkish authorities, even after the arrival of the Sultan's Commissioner, Mustapha Pasha, who is charged to inquire into, and redress, or listen to grievances.

Mustapha Pasha had only landed three hours, he had not questioned a Christian, he had not seen a consul, when he declared, "that the statements of the late events in Syria, were exaggerated." All his information must have been derived from the local Turkish authorities, who are only too deeply interested in representing, that events which made their inaction so culpable, have been misrepresented, or exaggerated; but a three hours' ride from Beyrout would convince even a sceptical person, of the real state of things: he would see some six or seven small towns or villages, four convents, the houses of the Emir Beshir, Emir Melkem, and numerous other persons, reduced to ashes, or plundered; and if this be the case so close to the Turkish camp, and Beyrout, how much more considerable must not have been the effects of the civil war in the remote districts?

In proof of what I state, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship, a rough statement, made by order of the Emir Beshir, of the number of houses burnt, property destroyed, and persons killed.

Mustapha Pasha has as yet not given any indications of investigating the conduct of Selim Pasha, or of the other Turkish officers whose conduct has been so strongly impugned.

I venture to believe, that your Lordship will agree with me, that the accompanying report proves the occurrence of an evil which I have not exaggerated, and that when the extent of that evil is contrasted with the measures taken to repress it by the legitimate Government of the country, which is responsible for the lives and property of their Sovereign's subjects, that the duty required from them, fell so far short of the duty performed by them, as to induce the belief, that they allowed the hostilities, although in possession of the means to check them, to continue. On no one occasion did Turkish soldiers act to put a stop to the civil war, which at one time may be said to have been fought within the lines of their camp. I have already detailed in my previous despatches, the numerous instances of misconduct of the Turkish authorities during the late events.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

#### Inclosure in No. 93.

#### *List of houses burnt and persons killed in the late hostilities betwixt the Maronites and Druses.*

Names of Villages of the Maronites.					Houses burnt.
Ain Psaba	-	-	-	-	22
Baabda	-	-	-	-	280
Uadi Sciahrur	-	-	-	-	250
Petcei	-	-	-	-	70
El Hadit	-	-	-	-	70
Hammana	-	-	-	-	11
Bsebdin	-	-	-	-	50
El Kakur	-	-	-	-	15
Faluga	-	-	-	-	70

Names of Villages of the Maronites.					Houses burnt.
Deir-el-Kammar	-	-	-	-	563
Dardurit-el-Madi	-	-	-	-	110
El Sakie-e-Dmit	-	-	-	-	30
El Paruk	-	-	-	-	7
Masraet el Sciuf, e Beikun	-	-	-	-	35
Dibbie, Bkectin, Ain-el-Hor	-	-	-	-	200
El Borgein	-	-	-	-	7
Giun	-	-	-	-	20
Ebbai	-	-	-	-	250
El Mohallaca	-	-	-	-	270
El Pum	-	-	-	-	130
Caffar nis	-	-	-	-	60
Ain Kessur	-	-	-	-	15
Ain Drafil	-	-	-	-	50
Il Convento del Naheme	-	-	-	-	25
idem di Mahmusce	-	-	-	-	15
„ Hamunik	-	-	-	-	3
„ Cappucino	-	-	-	-	13
Aramun-el-Garb	-	-	-	-	30
Magd-el-Mehuch	-	-	-	-	150
Rascmeia	-	-	-	-	250
Ain trés	-	-	-	-	80
Sciartun and Caffar Catra	-	-	-	-	13
El Meaisre and Sciurit	-	-	-	-	11
Hassbeit bisebdin	-	-	-	-	15
Giuar-el-Hos and Hoseihes	-	-	-	-	19
Bichessin	-	-	-	-	130
Phanin	-	-	-	-	40
Hasur and Btedin-el-Loches-	-	-	-	-	70
Darb-el-sin	-	-	-	-	20
Gezzin	-	-	-	-	95
Mashmusce and Deir-el-Cotein	-	-	-	-	32
Aklim-el Toffan	-	-	-	-	15
Deir ain el Giose and Sagbin	-	-	-	-	250
Nel Bokah	-	-	-	-	80
Zahlé	-	-	-	-	5
Tahlabaja, Tahnaiel, Han morad, ed il Mreigiat	-	-	-	-	32
Humal, Pleibel, Bdadun	-	-	-	-	30
Caffarcima	-	-	-	-	100
Tarcise	-	-	-	-	18
Der Tahech	-	-	-	-	11
Total					4137

*List of the Druse houses burnt by the Christians.*

Names of Villages.					Number of Houses.
Bisebdin	-	-	-	-	15
Shooyfaat	-	-	-	-	3
Aramun-el-Garb	-	-	-	-	50
Pahnerte	-	-	-	-	30
Caffar nis	-	-	-	-	30
Niha	-	-	-	-	18
Pater	-	-	-	-	35
Gibbah	-	-	-	-	2
Mreste	-	-	-	-	1
Pareja	-	-	-	-	8
Il Pennje	-	-	-	-	17
Ebbei and Fsakin	-	-	-	-	9
El Sabahje	-	-	-	-	3
Total					221

*List of persons killed on both sides.*

Names of Towns and Villages,	Druses.	Christians.
Deir-el-Kammar - - -	297	82
Aklm, Djenin, and Shoof - - -	35	85
Saghbin - - -	18	50
Beidan-el-Raml - - -	30	20
Shihar - - -	37	4
Garb - - -	35	15
Giurd - - -	17	12
Meten, after cessation of hostilities -	24	45
Zahlé-el-Boka - - -	480	45
Deir-el-Kammar, after having given up their arms - - -		7
Towards Halde, on the road - - -		25
Total -	973	390

The amount of the lost property is stated to be upwards of hundred thousand purses.

## No. 94.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, December 30, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that no renewal of hostilities has taken place betwixt the Maronites and Druses.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship, that on the 13th instant, the Emir Beshir attended a meeting at the Defterdar's, at which Selim and Ayoub Pashas were present. His Highness asked Selim Pasha whether he was, or was not, Governor of the Mountain. The Seraskier replied that he was. The Emir Beshir then stated, that he was in possession of the firman of the Sultan, and that as he had discharged his duties faithfully, he ought to continue his functions. Selim Pasha said, "What would you do?" The Emir Beshir answered, "I would summon the Emirs and chiefs to Beyrout, to hear what they have to say, or what complaints they have to make." "What, the Druses also, who are so hostile to you?" remarked Selim Pasha. "Certainly," was the reply, "as Prince of the Mountain, I govern both Christians and Druses."

The summonses to the chiefs, then signed by the Emir Beshir, were made out; but I learnt since, from both Druse and Christian chiefs, that the letters which they received, desiring their attendance at Beyrout, were only signed by the Seraskier. The summonses, therefore, of the Emir Beshir must have been kept back.

The Druses, on receiving the letters of the Seraskier, desiring them to come to Beyrout, were alarmed, and I received communications from them, requesting me to tell them whether they could come with safety. I was certain, from all I knew of the conduct and feeling of the Turkish authorities, that they had no intention of entrapping the Druses. I, therefore, acquainted them, that they had better obey the orders of the Seraskier without delay. Those who had communicated with me, accordingly came to Beyrout.

All I hear convinces me that the Druses will never submit to the resumption of authority by the present Emir Beshir. They say, that they would rather send their wives and children to the Haouran, and defend themselves to the last against the attempt to re-establish him. In addition to their previous causes of dislike of this Prince, they feel that after what has passed, their mutual relations can never be friendly or happy.

The Druses have revolted against the Prince and Maronite rule; have driven him from the seat of his power, Deir-el-Kammar; and several of their chiefs have been guilty of an unprincipled attack on the property of his Highness and his Catholic subjects. The Prince is not wise, and he is avaricious; the Druses know, therefore, that the remainder of his reign, which cannot be a very long one, for he is seventy-two, will be devoted to attempt to recover the pillaged property, and to punish their delinquencies. I do not think, therefore, that any guarantee or concession would reconcile them to the present Prince.

Two subjects now absorb the attention of the Mountaineers.

1. The nomination of a Prince of the Mountain.
2. The restitution of the property pillaged by the Druses.

With respect to the first point, great difficulties attend the settlement of it. The Christians will insist on having a Christian, the Druses a Mahometan Prince. Although both Christians and Druses wish for different Governors, yet they neither of them desire separate government. The question has been made more complicated by the desire, now coming into evidence, of the Turkish authorities, to place a Turkish authority in direct rule over the Mountain, instead of an Emir. The selection which they made of the person for the temporary command of a large district of it, was most unfortunate, and is further proof of the ignorance or contempt of the Turks of public opinion, or of what is right. They chose for this post Fataha, who caused a respectable Christian to be bastinadoed till he fainted, because he said to a Turk, in a quarrel which took place on their dissolving partnership, "I am your Lord and Master." The Christian was confined to his bed for a month. Zachariah Pasha, on my representing to him the conduct of the Governor, made him pay fifty gold gazis to the Christian, and apologize to him.

The Druses will, although against their policy, favour the appointment of a Turkish authority, in order to conciliate the Turks, and thus effect their emancipation from Maronite government, but in their hearts they will view with repugnance the establishment of a Turkish Government in the Mountain. They unfortunately neither respect nor trust them.

The party of the Ex-Emir Beshir has acquired strength in proportion as insecurity of life and property, and disorder, have been on the increase. It is stated that the Patriarch and a considerable number of the clergy, have petitioned, or expressed a wish, for his return, or for that of his son; this is probable; they think that his severity, and the dread of the cruelty which he visits on those who oppose him, can alone restore the lost influence of the Maronite party, and effect a restoration of the property plundered by the Druses.

Mr. Bankhead acquainted me, that he was endeavouring to prevent the restoration of the Ex-Emir Beshir, and, therefore, in answer to inquiries from persons of all sects, as to the feeling of the British Government on this point, I replied, that the British Government could not desire the return of a Prince to power who had been removed last year, because his stay in Syria was not considered conducive to the welfare and happiness of the Mountaineers, or the interests of the Sultan.

The second question, the restoration of the plundered property, is as difficult of solution as the first, for the Druses have converted as much of it as they could do into money; and the expectation of the most violent of the Maronites to recover, if not all, at least a very great share of their property, will not be realized, for the conquerors, the Druses, are still favoured by the authorities. I received information that a good deal of the property had been sent to the sea-ports, and towards Gaza. I acquainted the Seraskier with the circumstance, and he made his Secretary write orders to the Pasha of Jerusalem and the authorities at the sea-ports, to stop all suspected property. This occurred after I had heard that the Seraskier had received a reprimand from Constantinople, in consequence of a complaint of his inaction, which had been made by the French Embassy.

Sheik Naaman and his brother, Said Djinblat, are not accused of plundering, on the contrary, the Christians state that they are above such

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conduct. Sheik Naaman has not the warlike character of his brother, or of the rest of the Druses; he states that he was forced into the late contest by his countrymen, who would have killed him if he had not joined them.

Sheik Naaman, although full of artifice, is liberal, and not ill-disposed towards the Christians; he has great landed possessions, and if the Turks took up in earnest the question of the restoration of property, and compensation to the Christians, he would assist in rebuilding the burnt houses of the Christians, many of whom are his tenants, and in using his influence to obtain a cession of a good deal of the plunder; an example which, in a minor degree, would probably be imitated by other Druse chiefs.

## No. 95.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, January 5, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that Mustapha Pasha, immediately after his arrival at Beyrout, issued summonses to the Druses and Christians to assemble at Beyrout.

On the 30th ultimo, the Sultan's firman was read, appointing Mustapha Pasha to inquire into, and listen to, grievances in Syria, and then report them to the Porte; soon afterwards, the Seraskier saw the Druses, who said they could never be happy under the rule of the present Emir Beshir, or any of the house of Shehab, from which family the Emirs of the Mountain have been chosen for a great length of time.

The Christians, when called in to the Seraskier, were questioned by him as to what they had to say; they replied, that in the first place they expected a satisfaction for the injury done to their persons and property. The Seraskier said, that that would be matter of consideration, and must be settled, as it best could, but that the chief point for their consideration was the selection of a Governor. The Christians said that they were satisfied with their present Governor. The Pasha said that he had heard that there were several who were not satisfied with him, and that the wishes of the majority should be consulted. Bishop Tubia replied that the Maronites were the most numerous. "How can you say so?" remarked Mustapha Pasha, "do not you complain that the Druses have destroyed your property and ill-treated you; how, then, can they be the minority?" Bishop Tubia said that that could be accounted for by the obedience of the Maronites to the orders of Selim Pasha, to remain in their homes and not to fight. This latter statement of Bishop Tubia is quite devoid of foundation; besides abundant proof to the contrary, I have in my possession a letter from the Emir Melkem, commander-in-chief of the Maronite army, to a person in Beyrout, in which he announces his intention to carry on the war against the Druses, and exterminate them.

Since this meeting, frequent and verbal communications have taken place between the Seraskier and the Maronite deputies, the results of which are, that Mustapha Pasha wishes the Christians not to state their wish to be governed by a Maronite Prince, and the conviction, on their part, which appears to be well founded, that it is the intention of his Excellency to place in the room of the present Emir Beshir a Turkish Pasha.

The Druses have sent a petition to the Seraskier, stating the impossibility of their serving under a member of the house of Shehab, declaring their unalterable allegiance to the Sultan, their readiness to serve under him even out of Syria; and begging Mustapha Pasha to name a Turkish authority as their Governor.

On the 31st ultimo, Bishop Tubia and Father John, who are the representatives of the Christian deputies, came to me and stated that they were convinced that Mustapha Pasha intended to place a Turk as Governor over the Mountain; and they added, that the Austrian Internuncio, by writing, and Mr. Wood verbally, had promised the Patriarch that they

should be governed by a Christian member of the house of Shehab; that the Maronites had been the first to rise against Ibrahim Pasha, and second the policy of Great Britain; and that in reward of that conduct, the officers of the Allied Powers, and particularly of Great Britain, made to them various promises, not the least important of which was, that they should be governed by a Prince of their own nation. They asked me, as a servant of that Government, to give them advice, now that they foresaw that they were to be deprived of their Prince, who, they stated besides, had been placed over them by Great Britain. They admitted that the present Prince was not favourably looked upon by many of the Maronites. I said that I would speak to the Austrian Consul-General, to whom, they told me, that they were going on the same subject. Before they went, I told Father Tubia that I was most anxious to fulfil, as far as in me lay, any engagement made by Her Majesty's servants; that I had the most kindly feeling towards them, the Maronites, but that the subject was a delicate one, and required mature consideration with M. d'Adelbourg, whose Government, they also stated, had made engagements with them. I saw M. d'Adelbourg afterwards; he is well acquainted with the Turkish law and customs, having been first Dragoman to the Austrian Internunciatura at Constantinople, to which he has been attached for fifteen years, and has translated Turkish books of law. He informed me that he had given the following advice to Bishop Tubia and Father John

1. To endeavour by persuasion, and all the conciliatory means in their power, to induce the Pasha to allow them to be governed by a member of the house of Shehab, or a Maronite Prince.

2. If the Seraskier would not allow the Maronites to have a Christian Prince, then, in that case, to follow the course pointed out by the Turkish law, and address a general petition "Ardhil Mahdar," to the Porte, requesting the Seraskier to be pleased to forward the same.

3. In the event of the Seraskier's not forwarding the "Ardhil Mahdar," to address the same to their Kapu Kiaja at Constantinople, a course also perfectly legal, the Kapu Kiaja having been granted to the Maronites by the Sultan, as a channel for the statement of their wishes and grievances to the Porte.

M. d'Adelbourg states, that the custom of Turkish subjects sending the general petition to the Porte, or addressing it to their Kapu Kiaja, is a fundamental law in the Turkish dominions, and that he has known frequent instances of their arrival at Constantinople being attended with the best results.

This advice of M. d'Adelbourg appeared so prudent and just, that I thought that I could not give a better answer to Bishop Tubia than that of M. d'Adelbourg, which I have just quoted.

I clearly made M. d'Adelbourg understand, that in giving the same advice to Bishop Tubia, as he had done, I did so on a principle of policy and of justice; and that it was my opinion, that if the claim of the Maronites to be governed by a Maronite were just; if, as they stated, their happiness could only be insured by the government of a co-religionist; on the same principle, it would be unfair that they, the Maronites, should wish to force a Maronite ruler on any other sect, whose religion was different from their own.

M. d'Adelbourg fully agreed to this, my opinion, and said certainly, "let the Maronites have a Maronite, and the Druses a Druse or Mahometan Prince, if they like, and a Pasha may be placed over both, with guarantees that he will govern according to the Hatti-Sheriff."

I trust that your Lordship may be pleased to approve the union of opinion of the servants of two Great Powers, Her Majesty's and the Austrian Government, on this subject, as tending, perhaps, to the solution of this difficult question.

I have the honour to say, that neither M. d'Adelbourg nor myself have the least intention of acting on these opinions; I merely submit them to your Lordship's notice.

I thought it my duty to shew a sympathy for the Christians, and give them advice in their trouble, because I know that in the anxiety and eagerness of the contest going on last year, frequent and extensive pro-

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mises were made by Her Majesty's servants to the Maronites, to induce them to rise against Ibrahim Pasha; and that one of the inducements held out to them to do so, was that their condition should be improved: that they should be released from the tyranny and exactions of the Egyptian Government and of the ex-Emir; but if the Maronites are deprived of a Prince of their creed, and placed under the direct rule of a Turkish Pasha, they will consider all the promises made to them as delusions, more especially after the unfortunate experience which they have had of the misconduct of the several Pashas sent to this country, and of their intolerant feelings towards the Christians. Already, I regret to say, a general regret is expressed, and reproaches are made against the Allied Powers, that a Turkish Government was substituted for an Egyptian one, which, with all its faults, certainly showed justice to Christians, and placed them in a better position than they had ever been in before. Amongst other important advantages which they have lost, not the least is, that under Mehemet Ali no court of justice refused the evidence of Christians merely because it was Christian, and not Mahometan, evidence, a circumstance which may be said, in a manner, to place the Christians out of the pale of justice.

I knew that if I had refused to give the Maronites the advice which they sought, they would have considered that I had not acted towards them with good faith. And both M. d'Adelbourg and myself ascertained from the Bishop Tubia, that in the event of the Porte not granting their petition to be governed by a Maronite Prince, they would instantly and readily submit to that decision, and obey, without reserve, any Governor whom the Porte might be pleased to appoint over them.

Nobody is more aware than I am of the factious conduct of the Maronite party, but if they have erred they have been punished,—if their influence was an undue one, it has been curtailed; but it is neither politic nor just to reduce a party which must again return to be an influential one, to the condition of despair.

The Druses have shown, in the late negotiations, their usual sagacity; they have acted in union and with decision, have affected a singular attachment to the Turks and their customs, and have observed one essential custom in these countries,—they have made large presents to all the servants of all the Pashas.

The Maronites, on the contrary, have not followed so safe a policy.

#### No. 96.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 8.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, January 3, 1842.*

WITH reference to my reports of the 30th of September and the 4th of November last, relative to the arrest and imprisonment of the Emir Said-el-Deen, Governor of the district of Hasbeya, I have the honour to state, that his Excellency Nejib Pasha has yielded finally to my solicitations, and has liberated him on the 19th of December.

The Emir, in calling upon me to thank me, informed me that he has been made to bear a loss of 50,000 piastres in the examination of his accounts, which item he supposes, with some reason, will not be made to appear in the public accounts, but will be divided among the officers charged with them, and with the collection of the revenue.

Nejib Pasha has not reinstated him in his government of Hasbeya, but has desired him to remain, for the present, in Damascus.

As I had procured for him his appointment to Hasbeya for his military services, I will endeavour to persuade his Excellency Nejib Pasha to reinstate him so soon as circumstances will give me an opportunity of doing so with consistency. He is deserving of support in every respect, and I have besides the instructions of the Sublime Porte to prevent, as much as possible, its officers from committing acts of injustice to those who served it with fidelity and zeal in the late war.



I have, therefore, dissuaded him from proceeding to Selim Pasha, which step, without benefiting him in the least, would only tend to irritate against him the authorities of Damascus.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

### No. 97.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 8.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, January 3, 1842.*

I HAVE had the honour to acquaint your Lordship, in my report of the 20th of November last, with the fanatical feeling of the Mussulmans of this city towards the Christians; with their threat to destroy their places of worship, built in the time of the Egyptians, without any legal permission; and with the promise of the Ulemas to consult me previous to the adoption of any resolution respecting them.

I have now the honour to state that, after two meetings I have had with Sheik Said Ibn-el-Attar, one of the principal Ulemas of Damascus, at the special request of his Excellency Nejib Pasha, it was agreed upon to return the following answer to the memorial of the Agas of the Meidan against the existence of a Greek Church in that quarter: "That, as it was formerly a school, it should remain so; and that, as the Christians had the legal right of lighting lamps and reading prayers in their schools, they should continue in this instance also to enjoy unmolested the same privilege;" with which answer the Agas were satisfied, and the Rayahs were very grateful for the preservation of their place of worship from being demolished.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

### No. 98.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 8.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, January 5, 1842.*

I HAVE had the honour of reporting, in my despatch of the 3rd of November last, his Excellency Nejib Pasha's disavowal of the acts of Shibli-el-Arian, in the districts of Hasbeya, Rasheya, and the Bekaa, and of the permission he gave the peasants to repel him by force, in consequence of his defection.

I have now the honour to state that, after a prolonged negotiation, this individual has consented to return to his allegiance on the condition that his Excellency paid him the arrears due to him, and pardoned all his acts, to which his Excellency has consented.

On the 31st of December last, therefore, Shibli-el-Arian came to this city, and on the following day he received a robe of honour, together with an order, it is said, to collect 3,000*l.* of the Miri due by some villages, notwithstanding that he has already despoiled the peasantry of a sum of 15,000*l.* in his late hostilities against them.

I waited upon Nejib Pasha to-day, and, in the course of conversation, his Excellency alluded to the return of this individual to his allegiance, and communicated to me, confidentially, his intention of fulfilling the promises he made to him, not to intimidate the other chiefs from coming to him, until such time as he received the instructions of his Government respecting his disposal.

His Excellency further assured me, that he had given orders to the Emir Hangiar, and to the other Governors, to collect their troops and to march against him, but that his timely submission had fortunately rendered this step unnecessary.

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His Excellency stated to me, that he had written to the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, lately arrived at Beyrout from Constantinople, to inquire into the late disorders in Lebanon, and to adjust the differences between the Druses and Maronites; whether he should attend upon him at the former place; but as the Seraskier had replied he intended visiting Damascus himself, he inferred from it his approaching recall, and concluded that the Seraskier would succeed him with ampler powers to act, in order to bring about more efficaciously the pacification of Syria.

His Excellency Rifaat Pasha, Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, has informed me that all my reports to the Sublime Porte respecting this country were read in the Supreme Council of Justice, and Mustapha Pasha's attention called to their several contents, previous to his departure, in order to be fully acquainted with the points that will require his utmost attention in the investigation he is charged to make into the state of affairs in general; and, although I am not positively told so, yet I am left to infer that he is likely to remain ultimately in Syria in the capacity of Inspector or Governor-General.

His Excellency Rifaat Pasha had acquainted me, during my stay at Constantinople, with the desire of the Sublime Porte to adopt the suggestion of appointing only one Mushir or Governor-General in Syria, but that it had been obliged to postpone carrying it into effect.

Sheik Vakid Hamdan presented a petition to the local Government, requesting to be appointed Chief Sheik of the Ledgea, in the room of Sheik Muzid-el-Hamdan, which demand he based on an old privilege enjoyed by his family. Both Sheiks were invited to Damascus and the petitioner was persuaded to forego his pretensions, and to reconcile himself with his rival, in whose company he returned to the Ledgea.

The differences of these two Sheiks having been compounded, that district has been restored to tranquillity for the present.

On the 17th of December last, Colonel Mustapha Bey returned with his detachment from the neighbourhood of Homs, where he had been sent to suppress the seditious movements of the mountaineers of Kelbié.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

#### No. 99.

#### *The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 26, 1842.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 5th of January of this year.

With regard to the report contained in that despatch of your communications with M. d'Adelbourg, the Austrian Consul-General, and with the deputies of the Maronites, I have to state, that you acted judiciously in concurring in M. d'Adelbourg's recommendation that the Maronites should seek to obtain from the Porte the form of Government which they desire, in the manner pointed out by the Turkish law; and Her Majesty's Government approve of your having met the advances of the Austrian Consul-General towards a cordial understanding on matters in which your two Governments take a common interest, in the same spirit of good will as was shown by that gentleman in his communications with you.

The despatches which Her Majesty's Government have received from Constantinople up to the 24th of January, contain the intelligence of the deposition of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim from his government of the Lebanon and of his arrival at Constantinople, and of the appointment of Omar Pasha to administer the affairs of that district. I have instructed Sir Stratford Canning, if necessary, to state that Her Majesty's Government feel confident that, although circumstances may have rendered the removal of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim from the government of the Lebanon matter of necessity, the Porte will bear in mind his previous faithful

services, and will secure to him an honourable asylum in any part of the Sultan's dominions in which he may choose to reside, with the full enjoyment of his liberty and property.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 100.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 28.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, January 12, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that, since my last despatch to your Lordship, all the acts of Mustapha Pasha and the other Turkish authorities in this country continue to confirm me in my belief, so often expressed, that the Druses have been secretly, and are still unduly favoured by the Turkish authorities, and that this policy is sanctioned by the Porte. Since the 5th ultimo, the wish of Mustapha Pasha, that the Christians should express in writing their willingness to be governed by any person, whom the Porte might be pleased to appoint over them, and his design to substitute a Turkish for a Christian Governor, have become more decided and clear.

On the 19th instant Ali Bey, the Secretary of Mustapha Pasha, sent for Bishop Tubia, and Father Arsenius, and Father John, and told them, "We will not have either this Prince, nor the one in Constantinople, nor any Christian Prince, because the Druses do not choose to have a Christian Prince; on the other hand, you insist on one, therefore there will always be divisions, and you must make over the affairs of the Government to the Plenipotentiary, Mustapha Pasha; if you do this, you will have peace, and all your property, which has been taken by the Druses, will be restored to you."

Father Arsenius replied to this: "Do what you like, we will obey." Ali Bey said, "Put this down in writing, but remember all this is a secret."

The Deputies said, that they would consult the other Deputies, and the next day stated their unwillingness to sign the document, for three reasons, the last of which was alone an important one. It was, that as the Government had ordered them, the Christians, to state frankly what they conceived to be most conducive to their repose and happiness, they were desirous to express their wishes in a general petition, "Ardnil Mahdar," to the Sultan himself; and they begged Mustapha Pasha to be pleased to receive, and forward it to Constantinople, but that if such were not his pleasure, they were desirous, as the Sublime Porte had been pleased to grant to them the signal favour of a Kapu Kiaja, to forward through this channel their wishes, and lay them at the foot of the throne. Father John added, "The Isterham (petition for mercy) is legal, allowed, is it not?" "It is legal," replied Ali Bey. "Then," rejoined the Deputies, "we are most anxious to tender it."

Ali Bey. "His Excellency is Moostakill (Plenipotentiary); it is not necessary."

Father John. "The Sultan is more Moostakill, has still greater power, therefore we wish to have recourse to him."

Here the conversation ended, but on their retiring, Ali Bey desired them to return in two hours, when Ali Bey said, "I have told all that has passed betwixt us to Mustapha Pasha, and his Excellency said, that he will not receive your petition, nor will he send it; his Excellency is Plenipotentiary, and will do all; he has no need of the advice of Christians; the Governor of the Mountain has been named and determined on."

Father John. "If we send the petition, shall we incur any risk?"

Ali Bey. "I do not know; you had better think about it."

Even stronger language than this was used by the Seraskier Selim Pasha, to the Christian Emirs, to whom he alternately held out threats and promises. He succeeded in gaining over the Emir Beshir of Brumana. Beshir is an Arab name, not a title.

Alarmed by this secession, and fearful lest it should spread, the Bishop Tubia assembled the Christian Deputies, both lay and clerical, and made them sign on the 10th ultimo a "Hedjé," a writing by which they bound themselves to petition the Porte for a Prince of the House of Shehab, taking, moreover, an oath, that whoever violated it should be answerable both with his life and his property to the remainder. (An Arab formula.)

The Christians are divided into three parties :

First, for the Emir Emin.

Secondly, for the ex-Emir Beshir.

Thirdly, there is a party also, who, like the Druses, wish the Lebanon to be divided into Mookatas, which means, "cut off," or "divided," feudal districts, each chief to govern his own district. This last party have throughout the late proceedings had an understanding to a certain extent with the Druses.

At the meeting of Ainoob, which took place in the beginning of August last, the advocates of the Mookatas, Druses and Christians, agreed to support this system of Government. It is a singular proof of the Patriarch's knowledge of the Mountaineers, that he foresaw and dreaded this union betwixt Christians and Druses as likely to be prejudicial to his authority, and was therefore opposed to their meeting together at Ainoob, as is detailed in my despatch of the 18th of August last. He knew that the power of the Christian and Druse feudal aristocracy would be fatal to a political hierarchy. The evil which the Patriarch anticipated has become fact.

The Emir Beshir cannot be said to have any party, for those of the Christians who felt a feeble wish to retain him, only did so on the principle that he was *de jure* Governor, and that this advantage over the other candidates for his office might ensure to them the maintenance of Christian Government. All consider him inefficient, as I had first the honour to state in my despatch of the 3rd of May.

Of these three parties, the least noxious is that of the Emir Emin. In the present state of Syria it is impossible to be sanguine about any public measure, for, at the best of times, the Government does not perform the ordinary functions of a Government, and latterly it has acted in the reverse sense of Government: it has created disorder instead of establishing tranquillity: it was so sensible of its weakness, that in order to punish and rule one powerful party it encouraged another one to prostrate it by force of arms, and then almost avows, that should the punishing party, the Druses, become refractory, it will, acting on the same principle, subdivide and create civil war amongst them by fomenting the ancient jealousies of their leaders. Reshid Pasha mentioned this line of policy to M. Basili and myself.

In this state of affairs, therefore, on the whole, and for the sake of humanity, the advantage of a prospect of Government, and of order offered by the accession to office of the Emir Emin, counterbalances the disadvantages of his being, as it is supposed, bigotted in his faith, which is Roman Catholic or Maronite.

It would be most desirable for the sake of the future peace of this country were measures to be taken by the Porte to render it imperative on the Patriarch and his clergy to confine themselves exclusively to the exercise of their spiritual duties, and to abandon altogether politics; their not having done so has been one of the principal causes of the late civil war; has made them, instead of pastors, political agents, who, inflamed and agitated, instead of calming the public mind; and lastly, was almost the sole cause that the Maronites acted hostilely towards the Porte. A representation, therefore, to this effect from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople would have a very beneficial effect, and would diminish the chance of evil resulting from the appointment of the Emir Emin.

M. d'Adelbourg, as I stated in my despatch of the 5th of January, had an idea that the Christian population of the Mountain might be governed by a Christian, and the Druse by a Druse, or a Mahometan Prince, with a Pasha to govern the whole, the Porte giving guarantees that he should govern according to the Hatti-Sheriff; but the Porte at

present have as much power as I think it is advisable they should have over the Mountain; it is not properly defined, which it ought to be, but in cases of emergency the Prince of the Mountain is under the Mushir of the Pashalic of Sidon.

If the command of the Mountain were intrusted to the Turks, could they keep it? I think certainly not. If they have acquired the mass of unpopularity which they have done amongst the timid and subservient inhabitants of the towns and sea-coast, what will be the result when they have direct rule over the more independent and warlike Mountaineers with arms in their hands, strong in their fastnesses, and in command of provisions and the springs of water with which the towns and villages of the Lebanon are supplied. To govern the Mountain the Turks would require the presence of from 10,000 to 12,000 men in it. They have no Commissariat and no money to purchase food or pay their troops: they would take flour, meat, wood, oil, beasts of burden from the inhabitants; in some instances, according to the caprice of the Turkish Commander, give receipts for them, in others none at all; but the result would be much the same, for the receipts are hardly ever paid. The irregular troops would besides pillage and vex the Mountaineers in every way.

In a few months the Druses, especially if the Turks attempted to govern or coerce them, would unite with the Christians and expulse the Sultan's troops from the Mountains.

Therefore, anxious as a servant of the British Government ought to be, for the stability of the Ottoman Empire, I can never desire a policy, the establishment of a direct Turkish rule in the Lebanon, which would so materially affect the maintenance of their power in one of their most important possessions, Syria; nor as regards humanity, after what I have witnessed in towns, in the presence of Consuls and foreign men-of-war, can I ever wish to see the interests of the Christians, in the remote districts of the Lebanon, committed to the Turks. Independently of all their other faults, there is not a Turk, from the private soldier to the Seraskier, who does not consider the Christian Rayah in Syria as an inferior description of being, who is not entitled to the same measure of justice as the Mahometans.

With respect to the consequences of the appointment of the Emir Emin on the condition of the Druses, the restriction of the power of the Maronite Patriarch and clergy to their spiritual duties would take away in a great measure the sting in Maronite rule, which has hitherto irritated and oppressed them, and his government might be rendered still more palatable to them by a permission to them to be governed by a Druse or Mahometan Prince under the Emir Emin as in former times, when the Lebanites enjoyed a happiness unknown to them in the present day.

Or the Druses might be governed altogether by a ruler of their own, but I do not know of any person fit for such an appointment: Sheik Naaman has talent enough, but I do not think that the Druses would at present name him.

But another question arises. Even if the Porte could govern the Mountain, and were disposed to do so according to the Hatti-Sheriff, would it be desirable that she should do so? I think not, until the Hatti-Sheriff be revised; for no one seems to know to what extent it goes, and, moreover, whilst it gives almost unbounded liberty to the ruled, it takes almost the power of administering effective punishment from the ruler.

I have gone thus much into tedious details, for which I hope your Lordship may be pleased to excuse me, because the plan of Government which I have been considering, embraces many important considerations.

The present is a crisis in the affairs of the Lebanon which may be turned to good, should it suit the views of the Allied Powers to exert their influence with the Sublime Porte in favour of the Mountaineers; if this opportunity pass, so favourable an occasion may never again present itself for redressing their grievances, and for rendering their position defined and secure.

Such a mode of proceeding on the part of the Powers would further possess the advantage of putting an end to the observations, now so

current, that the Allied Powers, in delivering the Syrians from the tyranny of Ibrahim Pasha and of the ex-Emir Beshir, had placed them under a rule which weighs far more heavily on them than that of their Egyptian masters, so heavily as to reduce them to the condition of despair.

No. 101.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 28.)*

My Lord.

*Beyrout, January 16, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on Friday, the 14th instant, the Emir Beshir, Prince of the Lebanon, was directed by Mustapha Pasha, Seraskier at Constantinople, to proceed to Selim Pasha, Seraskier, who informed his Highness on his coming to him that he had been directed by Mustapha Pasha to announce to him that his Excellency had directed him to remove him from the government of the Mountain. His Excellency then directed the dragoman to proceed to the Prince's house for his Nishan, or decoration, which he retained: thus depriving his Highness of the reward granted to him by his Sovereign for his courage and loyalty in having been the first Emir to bear arms in favour of the Sultan against Ibrahim Pasha, at the invitation of Commodore Napier.

I have the honour to represent to your Lordship, that the Emir Beshir was last year called on by two of Her Majesty's servants, Sir Charles Napier and Mr. Wood, to assume the government of the Lebanon, the latter gentleman in person having invested him with the office. He has frequently represented to me that he never would have undertaken the arduous task had he not felt assured that in consequence of the engagements of Her Majesty's servants, and the prominent part which his Highness took in the insurrection of the Maronite people against Ibrahim Pasha, and in seconding the policy of Her Majesty's Government, they would have used their influence with the Porte to secure to him the possession of his office and a guarantee against pecuniary loss.

I regret to say that since his assumption of authority in the autumn of last year, his Highness has not received any part of his salary, however small, from the Turkish Government, although no country that I know of requires so much that its ruler should be in possession of funds, as the Lebanon. The sects of its semi-barbarous and turbulent populations have made themselves remarkable at all times by their fatal animosities against each other. A Government, therefore, in the Lebanon, without sufficient money to keep up a respectable military force to keep in check those sects, and uphold the authority of that Government, and preserve order, must be powerless. Owing to no fault of his own the present Emir Beshir was placed in that predicament; neither his Secretary nor his subordinate officers were ever paid by the Turkish Government; and a few ill-equipped and badly-armed men which he had collected, were maintained at his own expense. The inefficiency of that force was proved in the attack made by the Druses, on the 14th of October, on Deir-el-Kammar, when his Highness, although aided by his natural courage, which he possesses in a considerable degree, and by the whole of the gallant population, was driven into the centre of the town, and obliged to act entirely on the defensive; and so reduced was he that when Ayoub Pasha and myself arrived on the 16th, to put a stop to hostilities, part of the garrison had only two rounds of ammunition left, and the rest were destitute of it.

I further beg leave to observe, that his Highness on leaving Deir-el-Kammar a fortnight afterwards, was plundered of the whole of his property, even of the pistols which I presented to his Highness by order of Her Majesty, by the Druse mob; his palace was there ransacked, his Highness was struck, and deprived of part of his dress, and by his resolution alone maintained his seat on his horse; his attendants, however, despoiled of their clothes, their money, and their horses, arrived on foot



at Beyrout. When his Highness on the same day descended from the Mountain to the plain of Beyrout, he saw his palace at Baabda, on his right, in flames, which had been burnt by the Druses after their repulse of the attack of the Maronites on Shooyfaat. It was not, therefore, a matter of surprise to his Highness to learn on his arrival at Beyrout, that all the ready money, his valuable property in his palace, had been plundered; and in one day, therefore, he saw himself deprived of nearly everything that he possessed in the world. His Highness entreats me to represent his misfortune to your Lordship and to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. To his credit I must say that he has never indulged in anything bordering on reproach; on the contrary, not only to myself but to others, he expresses his admiration of the good faith and upright dealing of Her Majesty's Government and of her servants; he merely states that if he had not yielded to the solicitations of Her Majesty's servants he would not have left private life, and would not, therefore, have been in the situation in which he now finds himself. Under all the circumstances of the case, I am certain that I do not err, when I conclude that his Highness has strong claims on the sympathy of me, Her Majesty's servant. With this feeling I proceeded yesterday to the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, and observed most respectfully to his Excellency, that I had heard of the Prince's arrest, and expressed my regret that he had incurred his Excellency's displeasure. Mustapha Pasha received me with much courtesy, and stated that the Prince's loyalty was well known to him; that he had not failed in anything, (*nullement fautif*), but that he had not talent sufficient for his office; that the Druses would not have him as their ruler, and that the Christians also were opposed to him; so much so, that his Highness had failed in inducing them, the Christians, to sign a petition that he should retain his authority over them. I replied that I was extremely glad that his Excellency entertained the same opinion as I did, of his Highness's devotion to the Sultan, and I admitted that he was not clever; but under all the circumstances of the case, I ventured to solicit him to be pleased not to send his Highness to Constantinople; adducing in support of my request the faithfulness of the Emir, the ruin of his fortune caused by his position in public life, and the further detriment it would cause to what remained of his property, and to the interest of his wife and child, were he now removed as a prisoner from them. I, of course, grounded my application to his Excellency on the fact that Sir Charles Napier and Mr. Wood, who were strenuously exerting themselves in the Sultan's interest to restore Syria to its legitimate master, had, for the attainment of their object, called upon and induced the Emir Beshir to place himself at the head of a people who were struggling with loyalty and energy to expulse those who had usurped their legitimate master's authority. His Excellency answered that it was the usage to send officers of the Sultan who were deprived of their authority, to Constantinople; but that to gratify me, he would give a letter to the Prince, for Mehemet Izzet Pasha, recommending him to the good offices of the Grand Vizier; and further, that he would recommend that favourable consideration should be given to my request that the Prince might be allowed to return to Syria, and placed as governor over some one of the petty districts of the Lebanon. This description of authority is nearly nominal, but gives a small income to its holders.

This morning I received an urgent appeal from the Emir Beshir and from the Princess, that I would use my exertions with the Seraskier, that his Highness might be permitted, for the sake of his family and what remained of his property, to remain in this country. His Highness recapitulated his misfortunes; and added, that he, who had done his best under the most trying circumstances that could be imagined, to do his duty had been punished, and was to be still more so, whilst those who had wronged him and risen against his authority, had not even been visited with a mark of displeasure. Under these circumstances I resolved to write to the Seraskier, and intercede for the Emir Beshir. Before I did so, however, I had an interview with the Austrian Consul-General, who informed me that he had just seen the Seraskier, and spoken also in the Prince's favour to him. His Excellency admitted the good qualities of



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the Prince, as he had done to me; but said, that he sent the Prince to Constantinople in consequence of orders from the Sublime Porte. Upon this I addressed a letter to the Seraskier, of which I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy.

I have the honour to state to your Lordship that the Emir Beshir underwent no trial or examination previously to his deposition.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure in No. 101.

*Colonel Rose to Mustapha Pasha.*

(Translation.)

Excellency,

*Beyrout, January 16, 1842.*

I HAD the pleasure to see this morning my friend the Austrian Consui-General, after he had seen your Excellency. He told me, that he had mentioned to your Excellency, that I was about to address to you a letter concerning the Emir Beshir Kassim.

It was not my intention to have written to your Excellency, with respect to the kind offices and treatment which you were so very good as to assure me yesterday, that you would use towards the Prince, because your Excellency's word was amply and entirely sufficient for me: I required no other guarantee.

My object was, that as your Excellency, and myself had agreed in our conversation of yesterday, respecting the unshaken loyalty of the Prince, and the good services which he had performed in restoring the authority of the Sultan in Syria, the Prince having been the first to obey the orders of Commodore Napier commanding the naval forces of Her Britannic Majesty, and to take up arms in favour of his legitimate master, risking all, and leaving all to prove that he loved his Sovereign better than his life; for these reasons it was my intention to have craved the indulgence of your Excellency in the Emir Beshir's favour, and to have requested your Excellency to have been pleased to defer sending his Highness to Constantinople, till you had received instructions from the Sublime Porte, in consideration of his advanced age, the hardship of a long voyage in the present inclement season, of his separation from his family, and the management of his almost ruined affairs; and finally, of his losses and of his sufferings; but as your Excellency declares, that it is not in your power to abstain from sending his Highness to Constantinople, but that you do so by orders of the Sublime Porte, I do not proffer another word: for both personally, and also as a servant of the most faithful ally of the Sultan, I view his pleasure with the deepest respect and consideration.

I thank your Excellency for the kind reception which you gave me yesterday, and for your courtesy.

I again beg to repeat to your Excellency the proffer of all the services which in me lie, an offer which I had the honour to make, with the most unfeigned sincerity, the first day of your Excellency's arrival in Syria.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 102.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 28.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, January 31, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on the 15th ultimo, the Druse and Christian Deputies were summoned to Selim Pasha,

to hear the reading of a bouyourouldi from Mustapha Pasha; it was not a firman, but was dated from the Seraskierat in Beyrout, and in Arabic; it set forth as follows:—

“The Government has perceived that the present Emir has not been able to govern as he ought, and this has been the cause of the great disorders, and of the loss of life in the Mountain; now, as we have been appointed Plenipotentiary by the Sublime Porte, for the purpose of giving repose and peace to the Mountain, in order to attain that object, we remove this Prince from the Government, and have appointed in his room Omar Pasha as Prince, or Governor (Emiran) of the Mountain, and all will obey him as such.”

The Druses saluted, and said, “We have heard, and will obey.”

Omar Pasha was then invested with a fur pelisse, the leading Druse and Christian were presented with benishes and cashmere shawls.

The same day, Omar Pasha marched to Deir-el-Kammar, with 800 men.

Since the arrival of Mustapha Pasha, ten interviews or communications have taken place between the Turkish authorities and the Christians. The Turkish authorities have only succeeded in inducing two of the Christian Deputies, the Emir Haidar and the Emir Beshir of Brumana, to sign a paper, requesting the Seraskier to name a governor for the Mountain; but they did so in guarded terms, and only spoke for themselves. These same persons signed the Hedjé which I mentioned in my despatch of the 4th of December.

The improper means, bribery and intimidation, to which the Turkish authorities had recourse, in order to induce the Christians to sign a petition which the Turks would consider as a cession of their right to be governed by a Christian Prince, prove that the Turks know that they possess that right: and the steadfastness with which the Christians cling to that right, their last hope, shows the great value they attach to it.

Mustapha Pasha has shown ingenuity, getting rid of the most impracticable of his opponents, the representatives of the clergy, by placing them out of the scale of persons qualified to act in worldly affairs; but he should have thought of this before he summoned them to Beyrout so to act; they did not meet his views, and he then denied their power, which he had before acknowledged. On the occasion of a report having been spread, that he intended to make a prisoner of the Patriarch, with 200 horse, he wrote to his Eminence, to state that he had never intended so to do; but in the letter he three times warned the Patriarch to abstain for the future from meddling in politics, and enjoined him to obey Omar Pasha.

Omar Pasha was a non-commissioned officer, as Monsieur d'Adelbourg informs me, in one of the Austrian regiments stationed on the frontiers; he quarrelled with his commanding officer, deserted, and became a leader of a band of robbers: he afterwards entered the Turkish service, and became a renegade. I was attached to his brigade for a fortnight last year; he takes advice well, and is the best officer I have seen amongst the Turks: is humane, but lost his nerve one day when he expected an attack from the Henadi Arabs of Ibrahim Pasha, and left me.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

### No. 103.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 28.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, February 2, 1842.*

I REQUESTED Mr. Wood to tell me what extent of promises he had made to the Christians with respect to a Christian Prince: he says,—

“The Internuncio, in writing to say that the Christians of the Lebanon were to have always a Christian Prince, bases his assertion on that of the Porte, which privilege it promised should be renewed to them.

“I made a similar declaration.”

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 28.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, February 6, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that I returned here on the 31st ultimo.

I learn that the Druses, or rather some of their chiefs, are, for the purpose of ingratiating themselves with the Turks, carrying on the farce of wishing to become true Mussulmans. No people certainly had ever stronger reasons than most of the Druses have, for wishing to be well with their rulers; for, protected by them, they preserve their persons and their plunder; but the part which they have to play has already become irksome to them. The Turks, duped and gratified by the hopes of proselytism, sent off in haste five mollahs with directions to build mosques in the mountains, of which two were to be at Shoofaat and two at Deir-el-Kammar. The mollahs, convinced of the sincerity of the new believers, intimated to the Druses that they must pull down their Helwer, or sacred places, and burn their books, both of which the Druses declined to do, but as a set-off to this, Emir Emin Raslan, a Druse, who was very active in the late contest, and who is said to have become a Mahometan, and for whom the Turks have created a government, ordered in person the American schools at Ainanoob, and on Bschemun to be shut, and the teachers to be sent to Beyrout. He said that the Sultan would take care of their, the Druses', education. These two schools were very flourishing—there were about 100 scholars. Mr. Thompson tells me, that the children, boys and girls, were very intelligent, and had made good progress. They were allowed to retain their books. The Druses have still schools, which are attended by Druses, in Aylutt or Alei, and four or five in the Meten, but I have reason to think that they will be closed also: Omar Pasha made Emir Haidar promise that they should be closed. The Turks show singular dread of everything in the shape of education or foreign connexion.

About ten days ago, the son of Sheik Hamoud Abuneked, joint Druse Governor of Deir-el-Kammar, came here, and requested Selim Pasha to send back immediately all the Christians who were here and at Sulin, and who had fled from Deir-el-Kammar; to induce Selim Pasha to do so, he presented him with three fine horses. The Seraskier gave peremptory orders to the Christians to return to Deir-el-Kammar, or, in other words, to certain pillage and destruction.

Monsieur Basili prevailed on the Pasha to suspend the order.

On Sunday last, two battalions of infantry, with two pieces of cannon, marched from Sulin to Deir el-Kammar; there are in all there now, with irregular cavalry, 3,500 Turkish troops.

The Druses are already beginning to show symptoms of mistrust of the Turks. Omar Pasha resides in the palace of the ex-Emir Beshir at Ibtedeen, which, as the crow flies, is about a half or three quarters of a mile from, and commands, Deir-el-Kammar. The greater part of the Turkish force is with Omar Pasha; he remains at Deir-el-Kammar.

It is stated that the Druses, within the last few days, have held frequent meetings; that 300 of them, armed, entered Deir-el-Kammar, but were not seen to go out of it again, and that they are concealing their men in the Helwer or churches about the town.

If Omar Pasha, following the example of his colleagues, allows the Druses to do what they choose, they will not molest him; if he do not, they will.

Naaman has become an Akal (enlightened): the Druses are very much pleased with this compliment paid to their religion. He has obtained a remission of the strict rules of the Akal; he is allowed to smoke, and to wear a fez instead of a white turban.

Five Christian women in Deir-el-Kammar, nearly starved, and in despair, have embraced Mahometanism; they were all immediately married, according to Mussulman custom, one of them to a black slave.

The conduct and feeling of the Turks render daily the position of the Christians in the country more depressed.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 28.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, February 7, 1842.*

YOUR Lordship will have learnt from my previous despatches the impression produced on me by Mustapha Pasha; that, to satisfy the foreign Ambassadors, Mustapha Pasha had been sent ostensibly to restore order and to redress grievances; but that, in point of fact, it was only a demonstration, and that he would pursue the same policy as the other Turkish authorities in Syria had done. Mr. Werry and myself stood alone in this opinion at first; but, notwithstanding, I thought it my duty in the fullest extent to offer the aid of my knowledge of the country and of past events to his Excellency Selim Pasha, who, as your Lordship has learnt by my despatches, is more implicated than any one else, and was present at my interview; and I did not think it politic to stand forth as the accuser of his Excellency, or the other Turkish officers; but I said quite enough to convince Mustapha Pasha that if he had sought information I would have given it to him.

Mustapha Pasha in Constantinople must have known that the foreign Consuls blamed the Turkish authorities in Syria; that, in fact, his appearance in this country was caused by their representations. If he and his Government had been sincere, then his first step should have been to have confidentially questioned those agents; but instead of doing so, he checked inquiry, by stating that the evils in Syria and the disorders had been exaggerated, and by whom could they only have been exaggerated? of course, by the foreign agents; and so clear was this meaning, that I asked his Excellency whether he did not consider the first feature of the civil war, the regular siege and surrender of Deir-el-Kammar, capital of the Mountain, as a grave occurrence? He was obliged to admit that it was so, but he never asked me, an eye-witness of this grave occurrence, a single question touching it.

Monsieur d'Adelloung and myself have thought it advisable to mix as little as possible in the most confused and difficult matters of the Mountain, either by seeking Mustapha Pasha, or by volunteering our opinions to an officer who, our Ministers told us, had come with full powers to settle affairs, more especially as it would have been most difficult for me to have said anything satisfactory on one most essential point, the question of a Governor for the Mountain, even if the Turkish authorities had asked me for advice in good faith; for, ever since I have been in correspondence with the Foreign Office, I have represented the inefficiency of the present Prince, and that the Druses would not quietly submit to his direct rule; I could not, therefore, have honestly recommended that he should have been retained. On the other hand, he is an honourable man, was placed in power by Her Majesty's servants, and I should have been very sorry to have taken on myself the responsibility of recommending either his removal or a successor to him.

I venture, with the utmost respect, to remark, that the concluding observations of your Lordship's despatch of the 31st of December, respecting the property plundered and destroyed during the late contest, embody every consideration, and embrace the justest views respecting so delicate and intricate a question: and I beg to express my sincere thanks to your Lordship for having given me the advantage of having both that and the other valuable opinions of your Lordship, to the spirit of which I shall implicitly adhere.

With respect to the message which your Lordship is pleased to direct me to communicate to Sheik Naaman, I feel somewhat embarrassed. At one time I thought that he had been very active in, and one of the promoters of the late combat, and I sent several messages expressive of my strong disapprobation, both to him and to his brother, Sheik Said, but circumstances have made me change this opinion. Mr. Misk, and other respectable Christians, eager Maronites, think that he is the best friend the Christians have amongst the Druses, and that he himself was forced

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into the combat by intimidation; indeed, it is very generally said, that the Druses would have put him to death had he not joined them; but there is no doubt that his brother, Sheik Said, a boy of seventeen, was most active. Neither of the brothers has done anything base as regards plunder, and they have at times shown mercy and generosity to Christians, although Sheik Said is said to have been guilty of great cruelty at the taking of the village of Sagbin.

## No. 106.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 15.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, January 27, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, copy of my despatch of 12th of January, to Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, respecting the pretensions of the Druses and Christians, and the secret plans of the Turkish authorities with regard to the future Government of Mount Lebanon,

I have ventured to insert in the above report, sundry observations with reference to the policy likely to be pursued by the present Grand Vizier, Izzet Pasha, as also with regard to the final result of the plans of the authorities, in the event they persist in their execution.

I have, &c..

(Signed) **RICHARD WOOD.**

## Inclosur in No. 106.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Mr. Bankhead.*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, January 12, 1842.*

SOON after the arrival of his Excellency Mustapha Pasha at Beyrout, he summoned all the Druse and Christian Emirs and Sheiks, and after questioning them respecting their differences, his Excellency desired them to state their respective wishes in writing; and although I have not yet obtained copies of these two documents, nevertheless, their contents, I am positively informed, are, on the part of the Druses, an unequivocal refusal to submit to the Government of the Christian family of the Shehab Princes, whom they request should be replaced by a Turkish governor, without specifying his quality; and on the part of the Christians, that a Christian Prince of the Shehab family should continue to govern them according to a privilege recently confirmed by the Sublime Porte.

Both the Druses and Christians, however, are divided in opinion respecting the soundness of their resolutions. The former are afraid that, by destroying the rights of the Shehab family and the privileges of the Christians, by the establishment of a Turkish governor, they will be establishing a precedent dangerous to their own privileges and rights, but are afraid to retract in order not to displease the local Government, which is naturally anxious and willing to avail itself of the differences of these two sects to place a Turkish governor in Lebanon, lest it should side with their rivals, and punish them for their insubordination, and compel them to restore the property they have unjustly acquired.

The latter (the Christians) are divided into three parties: the first support the present Emir Beshir; the second advocate the return of the Ex-Emir; and the third side in opinion with the Druses, and wish for the country to be divided among the several Chiefs, in feudal tenure.

The Turkish authorities are endeavouring to turn the actual schism of these two rival sects to the advantage of their own Government, by seizing on the opportunity to establish a Mahometan officer of their own

in the room of a native Christian Prince, and inwardly, therefore, support the demand of the Druses. They have, in consequence, returned the petition of the Christians, and have refused to transmit it to the Sublime Porte with that of the Druses, so long as it is not couched in terms of perfect submission to its will; leaving the appointment of a governor to its discretion and option, without reference to his quality or religion.

This circumstance, together with the public declaration of Selim Pasha, that the Druses have obeyed more readily the orders of the Porte, coupled also with the accusation of Reshid Pasha, that the Christians have expressed their dissatisfaction at the Sultan's Government, and had requested of the Consuls foreign protection, have confirmed in the mind of the Christians, the misgivings they entertained of the secret views of his Excellency Mustapha Pasha to appoint a Turkish governor; and the first and second party have, in consequence, united to support the privilege of having a Christian Prince of the house of Shehab, for the sake of establishing the principle, leaving it hereafter to be determined whether the ex-Prince or the present one should be selected to occupy the post.

I may venture to assert, respectfully, my persuasion that the members, composing the Commission sent by the Sublime Porte to examine into the state of affairs, and adjust the differences that have unhappily arisen between the Druses and the Christians, have been induced by the Turkish authorities already here to take advantage of their dissensions to encroach upon their rights, and establish a Turkish officer in Lebanon in the room of a Christian prince of the house of Shehab.

The fact that the present Grand Vizier, Izzet Pasha, when in the capacity of Seraskier in Syria, had entertained a similar project, and had even thus early, instructed secretly, Emir Said-el-Deen, ex-Governor of Hasbeya, a Mahometan Prince of the family of Shehab, to acquire adherents in Lebanon, in order to facilitate his appointment to its Government some future day, confirms the supposition that this plan will receive a full and ready support from the Ottoman Porte.

Nejib Pasha, who has been called to Beyrout to assist at the Council to be held there, is also a firm advocate for the plan, notwithstanding that he outwardly assented to my observations that the plan itself, instead of its being advantageous to the real interests of the Porte, was likely to prove otherwise; for besides the probability of the Druses and Christians uniting ultimately to oppose this new encroachment on their old rights and usages, a disposition which they have already betrayed notwithstanding their late differences, it would be unprofitable, in a financial point of view, since to maintain the authority of the Turkish Governor in the Mountains it would require from 6,000 to 8,000 troops, the expenses of which would surpass four times the revenue of Lebanon, besides the loss of their services in other parts of Syria.

Nejib Pasha has also expressed to me his opinion, a few days previous to his departure for Beyrout, that the pacification of the Mountaineers could only be effected by their disarmament; an idea, which, as I knew it was entertained also by the present Grand Vizier, I endeavoured to combat with such remarks as I deemed would convince him of the too great weakness of the Turkish forces to make the attempt at present, in order to deter him from asking and procuring the Grand Vizier's permission to carry through a measure which would inevitably bring about hostilities between them and the Lebanites.

As it is evident that the question will be finally referred to Constantinople, I may be permitted in conclusion to state, that there are three Princes of the family of Shehab that profess the Mahometan creed, namely, Emir Soleiman, Emir Effendi, and Emir Said-el-Deen. The two former, from their character, age, and intellectual incapacity, are unfit to govern; and although Emir Said-el-Deen, ex-Governor of Hasbeya, is much superior to them, is liked by the Christians, and will be supported probably by the Grand Vizier, yet he has not many adherents among the Druses.

The Grand Vizier is personally averse to the present Emir, and it is to be presumed he will not allow the opportunity to escape him of deposing him: and in case that he has forgotten his personal friend the Emir Said-

el-Deen, and he meets with too great an opposition in appointing a Turkish officer, there are no Christian Princes of the family of Shehab fit to govern the Mountains except the Emir Emin, son of the ex-Prince, supported by his nephews, Emirs Medjid, Mesood, and Mahmoud.

No. 107.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 15)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, January 27, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the 14th instant, the Emir Beshir was arrested by Selim Pasha, who deprived him of his nishan, or decoration, and gave him notice to prepare for his immediate departure for Constantinople. On the following day, his Excellency Mustapha Pasha's commission empowering him to adjust the affairs of Syria, was publicly read; the Emir Beshir's removal from the Government of Mount Lebanon formally announced; and Omar Pasha's appointment to the same proclaimed; after which robes of honour and other presents were distributed to the Druse and Christian chiefs present.

The suspicions, therefore, entertained of the intentions of the Turkish authorities to take advantage of the dissensions of the Druses and Christians, to seize upon the Government of Lebanon, have been thus realised.

As this act compromises many principles and interests, I may venture respectfully to state, that the disloyalty of the ex-Prince rendering it expedient, soon after the commencement of the war with the Egyptians, not only to deprive him of his command, but to appoint another Prince, under whose standard the Mountaineers could rally, I received, through Viscount Ponsonby, a conditional firman to the above effect, to make use of according to the exigencies of the moment.

On the 8th of October, 1840, therefore, when our line of operations was extended, and it became highly injudicious to allow such a formidable rival as the ex-Emir to retain his government and power in our rear, and to be in communication with the Egyptian head-quarters at Damascus, I superseded him, and invested the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim with the Government of Mount Lebanon, with the concurrence of his Excellency Izzet Pasha, then Seraskier, and Sir Robert Stopford, the Commander-in-chief.

In the month of March last was recalled to Constantinople, at the request of the Foreign Ministers, and with the consent of Rechid Pasha then Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, to furnish such information as I had acquired in Syria, as to the best means of placing the relations between the Sublime Porte and the Syrians on a satisfactory footing; when, among other concessions and privileges obtained for the Lebanites, a firman was also procured, reconfirming the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim in his Government of Mount Lebanon, after the termination of the war.

It is due to him to add, that, from the period of his nomination to the day of his arrest, he has evinced, in more than one instance, his fidelity to the Sublime Porte, and loyalty to his Sovereign; although it cannot be denied that he ultimately betrayed an incapacity and a want of tact to encounter the difficulties of a position rendered still more painful and embarrassing by endless intrigues and ill-judged measures, together with the unsubdued and refractory spirit of the Mountaineers, which created circumstances that required superior talent and penetration than he possessed to control them.

In the absence, therefore, of any political misdemeanor, the Turkish authorities intend to accuse him, as I infer from my personal intercourse with some Turkish officers, of having been the cause of the late warfare; of having made use of expressions partaking of disloyalty and disobedience; and of having defrauded the Government of sums of money remitted to him for the payment of the irregular troops. The first accusation is totally unfounded; the second is not of the character it is repre-



sented to be, for I was present during the discussion in the Council held at Beyrout; and with regard to the third, the pay of the troops was invariably transmitted through me to the Emir, for which he regularly furnished me with his receipts; and his accounts were examined and closed at Jaffa by the Seraskier Zachariah Pasha, Houssein Pasha, Selamy Effendi, the Musteshar, and myself, and transmitted to the Sublime Porte, duly signed and sealed by us. He was then in advance to the Government of about 80,000 piastres.

Although the above will be made, perhaps, the ostensible cause of his removal, yet the anxiety that the Turkish authorities have more than once betrayed of striking a signal blow to all foreign influence in Syria, and particularly in Lebanon; of intimidating the chiefs from having any relations with the European agents; of recalling the promises made to them; and of annulling the concessions and privileges procured for the Lebanites through our intervention, amply justifies the supposition, that the Emir was sacrificed for no other reason than that he owed his appointment to British agency.

With the above objects in view, therefore, the Turkish authorities have taken advantage of the civil war between the Druses and Christians to weaken one of the parties, and to compromise the other, and then to side with the former, notwithstanding that they were the first to set aside the sovereign authority, for no other reason than because their refusal to submit to a Christian Governor, and their demand to have one professing Islamism coincided with their policy, with the representations of Nejib Pasha to the Sublime Porte, and with the views and feelings of the present Grand Vizier, Izzet Pasha.

But apprehending themselves, that this palpable infringement of the privileges of the Lebanites may meet with opposition, not only from them but from the Allies themselves, under whose auspices Syria was restored to the Sultan, and certain arrangements entered into for its prosperity, they have with some sagacity selected Omar Pasha to fill the post of Emir of Lebanon, in the hope first, that his outward profession of Mahometanism would satisfy the Druses; secondly, that his former connexion and friendly intercourse with the Maronites would reconcile them more easily to the change, and thereby that his European origin would render the European Powers less averse to his appointment. Nevertheless, as no renegade has ever enjoyed the confidence of the Sublime Porte, it is to be presumed, that so soon as it has succeeded, by his means, to establish the principle of nominating a Turkish officer to the Government of Mount Lebanon, he will be displaced, and another in whom it can have implicit confidence appointed in his stead.

Omar Pasha is by birth a German, and was educated at the Military College of Therezienstadt, in Vienna; but having had the misfortune of challenging his commanding officer after he had attained the rank of lieutenant, he crossed the Turkish frontier to avoid a court-martial, abjured his faith, entered the Turkish army, and was made a General for his services in the late war.

It is much to be regretted that, in a matter of so much importance, inasmuch as the prosperity of a whole population is concerned, his Excellency Mustapha Pasha should not have consulted more the real interests of the Sublime Porte, and have endeavoured, instead of taking advantage of the differences of the Druses and Christians to establish a Turkish officer, to have reconciled them to each other as much as possible, without encroaching too much on their old rights and privileges. His Excellency would have thus attached them more closely to his own Government, by giving them fresh proofs of his moderation and justice; whereas, by the injudicious measure he has adopted, he has failed in his principal object of destroying foreign influence, for the more the Christians believe themselves oppressed and ill-used, the more they will naturally rest their hopes upon the sympathy of Europe.

In conclusion, I dare venture respectfully to assert, that numerous causes, too long to detail here without trespassing too much on your Lordship's time, make me apprehend fresh disorders in Lebanon, which are likely to be followed by the expulsion of Omar Pasha, in which

case the Turks will find themselves engaged in hostilities with the Syrians, for which eventuality they are unprepared.

Already a great number of the Druse Sheiks, I am informed, have repented of the step they have taken, apprehensive lest the Turkish authorities should, in due course of time, make use of the precedent to encroach also upon their rights; and the Christians, with the exception of Emir Haidar and Emir Beshir of Brumana, have refused unequivocally to sign a paper, stating that they left the appointment of a Governor exclusively to the choice and discretion of the Porte. The Turkish authorities are still very anxious to procure such a document, in order to show, in the event of any representations being made respecting the nomination of Omar Pasha, that the Christians had left the choice to them, and do not object to it.

Had the Emir Beshir received the support to which he was entitled, although the Porte might have claimed the right of removing him at pleasure for incapacity, yet it is believed Mustapha Pasha would not have deprived him of the decoration given him by his Sovereign, not as an insignia of his office, but for having first attacked and defeated the Egyptians, and for having led the Mountaineers to their pursuit far beyond their districts: an isolated fact due to his exertions in the history of this brave but unfortunate people.

No. 108.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 5.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, January 31, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship of the nomination of Emir Ahmed to the district of Hasbeya.

From the best information I have been able to collect respecting this individual, it would appear that during his administration of the same district under the Egyptian rule, he committed some acts of oppression in the execution of his duties, which have rendered him obnoxious to the people.

His Excellency Nejib Pasha, without taking into consideration either the tranquillity of the provinces entrusted to him, or the well-being of its inhabitants, has injudiciously re-appointed him to this district, the people of which have addressed a remonstrance, a translation of which I have the honour of transmitting herewith, so energetic, and, at the same time, in terms so positive and strong, that I am afraid that part of the Pashalic will be again a prey to the same disorders which have devastated it but so recently.

The Druse Sheiks declare they will never allow themselves to be governed by Emir Ahmed though they should sacrifice their lives, and demand another district where they will transport themselves and their families. They swear vengeance upon all who should submit to him, and threaten to destroy those who should oppose the nomination of Emir Halil, brother to the ex-Governor. Emir Said-el-Deen, also a worthless character.

So soon as I was acquainted with the threats and reluctance of the Druse Sheiks to recognize the authority of Emir Ahmed, I transmitted a copy of their remonstrance to his Excellency Nejib Pasha, then at Beyrout, for his consideration, although I felt certain, at the time, that he would adhere to the principle of abiding by his decrees, not to weaken his authority by encouraging the Syrians to compel him at pleasure to revoke them.

Emir Ahmed left Damascus previous to the return of his Excellency Nejib Pasha from Beyrout; but I am informed that he has not proceeded further than Rasheya, from whence he is negotiating with the chiefs for his reception.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

## Inclosure in No. 108.

*Letter of Emir Shems and Sheik Jousseff Kais, to Sheik Mustapha Kais.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

WE have received your letter and have understood its contents, particularly that part of it which engages us to make known our wishes to the Beys. (Sheik Naaman and others,) that they may communicate them to Shibli-el-Arian. We lost no time, therefore, in sending to them Sheik Halil Shems, and we also sent Mahomet Aga Salih with a memorial to his Excellency Nejib Pasha. It is an utter impossibility that we should ever accept Emir Ahmed as our Governor, even should our refusal be the cause of our ruin and the ruin of our country (district); and whoever of us should consent to it, we will exchange our blood for his blood, and we will destroy his house, and we will cut off his progeny. Should any of the Christian notables of this district, actually at Damascus, accede to it, we will consider him as our enemy, and let him not be secure of his life for one single instant. If this nomination be reconfirmed or persisted in, it will be the cause of the destruction and ruin of this country. We hope, therefore, that you will exert your utmost efforts to prevent the execution of this matter, and our property and goods are at your disposal, since it is an impossibility that we should consent to it, though we should be made to disperse like chaff before the wind, and Shibli-el-Arian should treacherously sell us. The nomination of Emir Ahmed will be the cause of the destruction of the district of Hasbeya: and God forbid, that in the days of this Government, anything should occur to occasion the ruin of its subjects. The acts of this individual, in the days of the Egyptians, are well known, for he occasioned us more than common misery. But should the local Government persist in sending him, it can do so, since all the country belongs to it; but you will demand for us another district, to which we may transport ourselves from hence, for we swear in the most solemn manner we will not be governed by him.

Inclosed we transmit a collective letter to Shibli-el-Arian. The people are already in great agitation, and God forbid, but this district will be ruined in consequence.

(L.S.) EMIR SHEMS.

(L.S.) JOUSSEFF KAIS.

## No. 109.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen — (Received March 5.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, January 31, 1842.*

PREVIOUS to the arrest of Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, he addressed to me a letter, a translation of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith, asking my advice whether he should not proceed to England, in the event that the Turkish authorities persisted in their intention of superseding him by the appointment of a Turkish officer, to implore the intervention of Her Majesty's Government in behalf of his rights, and to assist him to recover the property of which he has been despoiled by the Druses.

My reply, in which I referred him to Colonel Rose, reached Beyrout too late to be delivered to him previous to his departure for Constantinople; but I have nevertheless great satisfaction in submitting his letter to your Lordship's perusal, as it conveys this unfortunate Prince's acknowledgment, in the first instance, of the benefit conferred upon him; and in the second, his reliance upon Her Majesty's Government for support in the maintenance of the rights of his family, and for the restitution of his property.

The Emir Beshir-el-Kassim was one of the last adherents we had of consequence in this country.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 109.

*The Emir Beshir to Mr. Wood.*

(Translation.)

Beyrout,

After the usual compliments.

1 Zilkadé, 1257. (January 13, 1842.)

I HAVE already informed you of the intention of the local authorities to deprive our family of the right of governing in Mount Lebanon, and to appoint one of their own officers, in opposition to the desire of the greater part of the Lebanites. It is true it would be agreeable to the Druses, as by the change they would hope to retain the property they have pillaged; but the Christians, one and all, are averse to it, and are unanimous in their demand that the Governor should be a Christian, of the house of Shehab, in conformity with an old usage, and in accordance with the privilege recently confirmed by the Sublime Porte, as you are well aware of. It appears, nevertheless, that the authorities entertain a different opinion, and are fixed in their intention of nominating one of their own officers. This is contrary to what I was led to expect from you, and certainly contrary to my expectations after my services; for it would now appear that for all my zeal I was only destined finally to be pillaged, to have my dwelling burnt, to be ill-treated by the rebellious, and to have my property seized.

Instead of being punished and being compelled to restore the property acquired by them, (the Druses,) they are now caressed, and I am abandoned, exposed to all the vicissitudes of a ruined man.

Since I owe my nomination to Great Britain, through you, I now ask your candid advice whether I should not proceed to England immediately after the appointment of another Governor of Lebanon, to throw myself on your Government, to implore its intervention in behalf of my rights and of my property, seeing that, in a manner, I belong to it.

The object of the present is to ask your council and assistance in a matter of such importance; for I am more than persuaded of your attachment and of the great interest you take in all that concerns me, proofs of which, &c.

## No. 110.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 15.)*

(Extract.)

Damascus, February 2, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship with the arrival of his Excellency Mustapha Pasha at Damascus, on the 21st January.

His Excellency having intimated a desire to see me privately, I waited upon him, and after expressing in a very friendly and affable manner, his satisfaction at seeing me, his attendants withdrew, and his Excellency commenced by asking, whether I were angry with him? Surprised at his question, I desired to have an explanation of his meaning, when his Excellency resumed the conversation by saying: "Mr. Wood, it is true I have removed the Emir Beshir from the government of Mount Lebanon, but after thinking on the matter for thirty-nine days, I saw no other means of terminating the differences between the Druses and the Christians, than by his deposition and the nomination of Omar Pasha, since the former (the Druses), not only persisted in their demand to have a Mahometan Governor, but had positively refused to have one from the family of Shehab;—to have compromised the matter, I should have pleased no party, and should have perhaps left an opening for a renewal of hostilities between them." He then asked me to state to him frankly my opinion. I replied, that if I were to give an unreserved opinion, even in the interests of his own Government, I must state sincerely my conviction that the step his Excellency had adopted for the pacification of Lebanon, was likely to have a contrary result, and to pro-

duce even greater evils than those it was intended to remove; that his Excellency was undoubtedly acquainted with the dissatisfaction that it had given to the Christians, and with the apprehensions of a great number of the Druse chiefs of the mischievous consequences to themselves from the establishment of the principle of infringing or destroying at pleasure the rights and old usages of the Lebanites; that this feeling, becoming general, may ultimately lead to the expulsion of Omar Pasha; that, in order to anticipate such a direct attack upon the sovereign authority, it would be necessary to place at the disposal of Omar Pasha from six to eight thousand troops; that the Sublime Porte would be made thus to incur an expense at least four times greater than the revenue of Lebanon; that as the other Mushirs in Syria, with the troops under their command, have not been able hitherto to ensure tranquillity, and establish order in the provinces entrusted to their administration, it became doubtful whether Omar Pasha, even with a large body of men, would be able to govern a mountainous country inhabited by a restless and warlike people; that as his Excellency had attacked, in a direct manner, their privileges but so lately reconfirmed by the Sublime Porte, it may be that the measure would be disapproved of by the Great Powers, which will lead to strong representations to his Government respecting it; that if his Excellency imagined that, by the deposition of the Emir Beshir, he would destroy European influence in Lebanon, he deceived himself, for the more the Lebanites were dissatisfied and ill-treated, the greater would be their appeals to Europe for protection."

His Excellency was pleased to concur in the foregoing observations, but remarked that, so long as a Christian Prince governed in Mount Lebanon, he felt certain that the foreign agents would find the means of interfering in its affairs, not only to the prejudice of the Sublime Porte, but of the inhabitants themselves: that so convinced was he of the improbability of Omar Pasha being able to govern it without a competent force to support him, that he had written to his Government to say so, and to propose that no less than 12,000 men, composed of regular and irregular troops, should occupy three of the principal points of the Mountain: and that, should the Sublime Porte object to the expense and to the number of troops suggested by him, then, he did not see that the measure he had been made to adopt, could lead to anything permanent or useful.

His Excellency, who does not appear very confident of the success of Omar Pasha's appointment, asked me to state to him the Prince that I should recommend to supersede Omar Pasha, in the event that the Allied Powers persisted in demanding for the Mountaineers the right of being governed by a Prince of the family of Shehab, with the exception of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, or in the event that time and circumstances should show the expediency of returning to the old system.

I replied, that there were three Mahometan Princes of the family of Shehab, two of whom, Emir Soleiman and Emir Effendi, were, from age and incapacity, and from a want of energy and honesty, unfit to govern; and with regard to the third, Emir Said-el-Deen, he was too obnoxious to the Druses to render his appointment judicious or prudent. That as the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim was the best of the Christian branch of the family of Shehab, and he had also evinced a lack of the requisite qualities to govern, it was not probable that the other members would succeed better than he did; and that, therefore, Emir Emin, second son of the ex-Emir, was the only Prince in my opinion fit to administer the Mountains, since his long experience and conciliatory disposition had gained him many adherents, both among the Druses and the Christians.

In giving your Lordship the foregoing substance of the conversation, in my private interview with the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, I may venture respectfully to add, that, as he communicated to me his opinions openly, and in a very friendly and confidential manner, not only in reference to the points noted above, but also in regard to the reprehensible conduct of Nejib Pasha, the Desterdar, and other functionaries, I have no reason to doubt of his Excellency's sincerity in his communications.

Mustapha Pasha's avowal that, after thirty-nine days of mature consideration, his Excellency saw no means of terminating the warfare of

the Mountaineers, except by the removal of the Emir Beshir, corroborates the opinion, that his deposition had formed the subject of deliberation at the Sublime Porte, previous to his departure from Constantinople.

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No. 111.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 5.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, February 12, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship occurrences since the 7th instant, which I regret to say, with a solitary exception, afford the same proof, as heretofore, of the misconduct of the Turkish authorities.

Two of the Hawaras, or irregular cavalry, took up two armed Druses, who were infesting and waylaying the public roads near Beit Meri, brought them before Selim Pasha, and detailed their offences to his Excellency. On their stating that they had only been shooting birds, and that they were Druses belonging to the Druse chief, the Emir Emin Raslan, whose conduct and connexions I particularly notice hereafter, Selim Pasha released them, gave them forty piastres, and desired them to make his respects to the Emir Emin Raslan.

On the 9th two Hawaras brought two Druses before Selim Pasha, whom they had found plundering a Christian, whom they had murdered. In their defence they stated that he had endeavoured to murder them. Selim Pasha, without going further into the case, immediately released them.

On the 1st instant, some Druses going along the road were singing the well-known song, which begins with "Ea Mahallah, Ea Mahallah." "How sweet, how sweet to destroy the churches! How sweet, how sweet to burn the cross." Words ensued betwixt them and the Christians, and then blows: the Hawaras came up, took the Christians prisoners, and bound them in a brutal manner, so much so as to make the blood start from their arms: the Druses were allowed to escape, and the next day the Christians were sent as convicts to the fortress of Acre.

On the 7th instant, Selim Pasha said to a person, "Why do not you tell me what the Christians are doing? What have they got to live on? In Kesrouan there is nothing but rocks. I think that the French and Austrians give them money; they are pigs, Giaours. Do the pigs think that these blackguards (*canaille*) will come and take their parts. Are not they all Giaours? Write to them to return immediately: if they do not, it will be very bad for them."

A few days back the Greek Antiochian Bishop was proceeding to pay a visit, when he was followed in the streets of Beyrout by a crowd of small and large boys singing the Druse song, "Ea Mahallah," which I mentioned above. One boy spat on him.

A woman and a boy in Sidon have become Mussulmans.

Four Druses, two of whom murdered three Christian priests at the bridge of Djob Djenin, have been sent to Acre by Omar Pasha. The other two had infested the roads.

The torture of a Christian by Selim Pasha had now been partially talked of. I had acquainted M. d'Adelbourg of it, and we agreed that we might now make a representation respecting it and other matters to Selim Pasha.

M. d'Adelbourg preceded me. He took with him, and read a letter from M. de Stürmer, in which he told him that the eyes of Europe were upon Syria and the conduct of the Turkish authorities; that he trusted that no language condemnatory of the Allies or of the Christian religion, who had restored Syria to the Sultan, would be used; that he hoped that the Seraskier would change his line of conduct, and treat the Christians with justice, and not favour, as he had hitherto done, the Druses, to the prejudice of the former.

I stated to Selim Pasha, that I had heard with extreme pain, that the people of his Excellency had used torture to a Christian, although I

hoped, and was willing to believe, that his Excellency knew nothing of it. He stated, that such conduct was unknown to him, although he admitted that, in order to make people confess, he had deprived them of food and sleep. I replied that these deprivations were, if carried to any extent, torture.

I commented on the general feeling of intolerance and contempt evinced by the Mussulman population towards the Christians, and said, that if people in authority and of education, used words of reproach, such as, "Giaours," it could not be a matter of surprise that the lower and more ignorant orders evinced these same feelings of intolerance by blows and acts of violence; and I instanced in proof of this, the collision of the other day between the Christians and the Druses, when, because the latter chose to sing a barbarous and inhuman song, three Christians were sent to Acre as convicts; and I adduced the instance of the insult offered to the Greek Bishop, in proof of what I stated. I added, that if such conduct and acts were not punished by the authorities, who were answerable for the public peace, that lamentable collisions would take place, and that the blame would rest, where it ought to rest, with the authorities.

M. d'Adelbourg and myself closed our interview by strongly and earnestly recommending to Selim Pasha the Christian population, which was only too much in need of support. We assured him, that the position of the Christians of the Lebanon was one that no people ought to occupy who enjoyed the advantage of a Government.

## No. 112.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 5.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, February 25, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 31st of January, with its inclosure, a despatch from your Lordship to Sir Stratford Canning, relative to the expression by the Porte of an unfavourable opinion, on her part, of my conduct.

I am quite at a loss to express to your Lordship the deep gratitude which I feel for the eloquent vindication of my conduct, which your Lordship has been pleased to transmit to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. My sense of your Lordship's extreme kindness and of your generous protection of, at any rate, a very zealous servant of Her Majesty's Government, will be lasting.

Mr. Bankhead had, in a private letter communicated to me, that the Porte had complained to him of my conduct, although he stated that they did so in a friendly way. I replied in a private letter, in which I certainly showed, not only the utter groundlessness of the accusations, but that facts ought to have induced the Porte to have entertained a directly opposite opinion of my conduct. In answer to my letter, I received one from Mr. Bankhead, in which he says, "I have sent word to Sarim Effendi, that I had received a full and satisfactory explanation from you to all the fancied complaints that have been brought against you."

I always expected that the accounts which I sent to Her Majesty's Embassy, of the misconduct of the Turkish authorities in this country, would, when the reproofs consequent on them reached those authorities, produce a conspiracy or charges against me; but this consideration, of course, in no way could influence me in performing my duty by Her Majesty's Government; and when I afterwards learnt that secret malevolence and intrigue had been actually directed against me, I felt all the anxiety which any body must feel who is the object of them, and who knew, moreover, how little scrupulous the Turks are as to the means by which they attain their ends; but I trusted with confidence to the protection which Her Majesty's Government is proverbial for affording to their servants.

I repeatedly stated to Her Majesty's Embassy in Constantinople,



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because I was bound to do so, amongst many other acts of misconduct, that the Turkish Government in Syria had not only shown supineness in checking, but had actually encouraged, the Druses against the Christians. I stated also, that it was my belief they acted thus by secret orders from the Porte, but that they had another motive for so conducting themselves; that they had been bribed by the Druses with the plunder of the unfortunate Christians. I do not know to what extent Her Majesty's Representative in Constantinople may have been known my reports to the Porte or to the Foreign Legations: but it is quite clear that if the Turkish Government, either at Constantinople or in Syria, were acquainted with only the spirit of what I said, I must have become an object of aversion to both of them, and that they would take every means, which their advantageous position as a Government, and my solitary situation afforded them, for lowering in estimation the character of a watchful observer of their conduct.

I certainly felt that the Porte had not treated me with gratitude, for as a faithful servant of Her Majesty's Government, and well acquainted with their unceasing and sincere wish, not only to maintain the stability of the Ottoman Empire, but to advance in any way their interests and welfare, I zealously strove to carry out that policy to its fullest extent, nor can I ever reproach myself with ever having intentionally or unintentionally swerved in the slightest degree from that course.

It is a matter of the most heartfelt gratification to me, that Her Majesty's Government has been graciously pleased to approve entirely my conduct during my service in Syria, and I beg leave to express with sincere respect and gratitude, which will never fail, my profound acknowledgments for the gracious proof of that approbation which is conveyed in the announcement that your Lordship has been pleased to request the Secretary of State for War and Colonies to recommend to the Queen that Her Majesty should be graciously pleased to nominate me to be a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

### No. 113.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 5.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyroui, February 25, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that the public mind in the Lebanon is still agitated,

1. By the question of the government of the Mountain, which the inhabitants do not consider as decided;

2. In a minor degree, by that of the indemnity for Christian property destroyed and pillaged.

With respect to the first point, I have the honour to state, that the Christians are still unanimously desirous of being governed by a Christian ruler. The Emir Haidar of Beitlemma, and the Emir Beshir of Brumana, the two principal Christian deputies belonging to families only second in station to that of the Shehab, expressed, it is true, their readiness to be governed by any person whom the Turkish authorities might place over them: but the intimidation used by Mustapha Pasha towards them, through his agents, alone induced them to swerve from the determined opposition to Turkish rule observed by the other Christian deputies. This was proved by the fact, that these two Emirs signed also the petition drawn up by Bishop Tubia, which stated that, under no circumstances whatever, would they, the Christians, ever voluntarily consent to be governed by a Turkish Governor. Mustapha Pasha offered 20,000 piastres, or any money, to the Emir Beshir of Brumana, to petition for a Turkish Governor, or to influence his Christian companions to do so.

As regards the Druses, with the exception of Emir Ahmet and Emir Raslan, who have received office from the Turks, and perhaps Hootoor

Bey, one of the Druses decorated by Mehemet Ali. they, the Druses, are already weary of Turkish rule, and anxious to be emancipated from it, so anxious, that they are even willing to give up their claim to be governed by a Mussulman, and consent to be governed by a Christian Prince, in order, by acceding in this respect to the wishes of the Christians, to make common cause with them against the Turks. I beg to say, that this union is meant to be moral, not physical, and that the persons, either Christians or Druses, who have communicated their sentiments to me, wish to attain their object by those legitimate means by which subjects make known their wishes to the Sovereign, and obtain, should it be his pleasure, the accomplishment of them.

*Sheik Hussein Talhook*, a Druse chief of considerable influence, and one of their best military leaders, has, uninvited, come three times to me, and spoken to me with respect to the government of the Mountain. The first conversation was as follows:—

*Sheik Hussein.* “The Turks will never do for the Mountain: they do not know our language or our customs; they eat, take a great deal of money, and pay for very little.”

*Colonel Rose.* “But the Druses unanimously asked for a Turkish Governor.”

*Sheik Hussein.* “What could we do? The Turks held us by the throats, and said, ‘Pay the Christians their demand of 70,000 purses, which is what you have plundered and destroyed, or do our bidding, and ask for a Turkish ruler.’ If we had sold everything we have, we could not have paid the 70,000 purses.”

*Colonel Rose.* “Well, you did that which you considered convenient.”

*Sheik Hussein.* “We did, it is true; but I assure you that we cannot remain under Turkish rulers; if we do, there will be nothing but bloodshed, confusion, and disorder in the Mountain.”

*Colonel Rose.* “What, then, is your wish?”

*Sheik Hussein.* “To have a common Governor, a Mussulman of the house of Shehab.”

*Colonel Rose.* “But the Christians state that they will never willingly accept a Mussulman: they entreat the Sultan to give them a Christian, and they ground their request on the strong fact, that His Imperial Highness was pleased, in his kindness, to promise them a Christian Governor in reward for their devotion in taking up arms in his favour; they further intreat the servants of the British and Austrian Governments to support this their prayer, because they state that other servants of those Governments, in 1840, in a measure guaranteed the execution of the promise of the Sultan.”

*Sheik Hussein.* “But the Druses are masters of the soil; Mount Lebanon was formerly Djebel el Druze.”

*Colonel Rose.* “That position is quite untenable. Neither precedent or justice gives you any right to exercise authority over the Christians. If you were unwilling to be governed by a Maronite, and your wish in this respect has been acceded to, be assured the Christians, on the other hand, are most reasonable in their wish to be under the rule of a Christian, and their position is still further strengthened by antient usage, the promise of their Sovereign, and the fact that, so far from having asked for a Turkish, they have steadily petitioned their Sovereign for a Christian Prince; and should the Powers think it advisable to use their legitimate influence with the Porte in this matter, they will certainly not use it to counsel the Porte to give to the Christians a Governor of your choice, in opposition to their interests and views. I have not, in the remotest way, interfered in the question of the government of the Mountain. I knew that all the Druses and most of the Christians were unfavourable to the Emir Beshir Kassim, who, with many good qualities, was not suited to the times. I therefore took no steps to induce the Turkish authorities to retain him in power. Your nation, the Druses, obtained a Turkish Governor; I said nothing; and I now wish to have no concern in this question, which is made so difficult of solution by the opposite views and animosities of the parties, although no one desires the happiness of the

Lebanon more than I do; but justice and humanity make me feel that I can never wish to see the Christians taken from under Christian to be placed under your rule."

*Sheik Hussein.* "Then, if the Christians receive a Christian Governor, and we remain under Turkish rule, the Lebanon will be divided, and the ruin of the country is in that case inevitable. We intreat you to give us your advice."

*Colonel Rose.* "If such be the case, you cannot lay the blame to the Christians, for you have produced such a state of things. My advice to you is, what it ever has been and ever will be, to respect and obey your Sultan; to keep the peace; and to be friends with and conciliate your Christian countrymen."

The Druse chief went away in trouble, for the idea of the Lebanon being divided into two Governments is as unpopular with the Druses as the continuance of the direct Turkish rule.

The Druses of the present day are different from those of last year. Their success against the Christians, their acquisition of wealth by the plunder taken from them, and the support given to them by their Turkish rulers, have turned their heads.

I had no doubt that Sheik Hussein would return in a short time in a different mood,—he did so on the 18th instant. He told me that he knew that I did not approve of the return of the ex-Emir Beshir; and asked me whether the British Government would approve of the appointment of the Emir Emin; that if they would so, he would engage that the great majority of the Druses should support him, the Emir Emin, and come down to the sea to receive him. He then mentioned to me the names of several of the leading Druse chiefs, who, with himself, desired the government of the Emir Emin, and asked me to represent their wishes to your Lordship. I said that I would do so. He stated also his wish that the Emir Emin should be advised to be reasonable on the subject of the pillaged property, as a contrary mode of proceeding would cause fresh disturbances; and, further, that the Maronite Patriarch and clergy should not interfere, as they had done heretofore, in any way with the Druses, but leave the management of all temporal concerns to the Governor of the Mountain.

I asked Sheik Hussein whether he was certain that the majority of the Druse chiefs, for all depends upon them, not the people, would support the Emir Emin? He said that he was; that two or three who were wavering, would decide in his favour on his appearance, and that the few who would not do so, would be obliged to succumb to the rest. Talhook did not mention the two wicked Druse chiefs of Deir-el-Kammar, the Abunekeds, as supporters of the Emir Emin; which looks well, as it gives more probability to his statement, and feasibility to his plan. I have long foreseen that one, if not both, of these men, must be expelled from the Mountain. Sheik Nasif, or Nasif Bey, was the leader of the late disturbances. It is almost beyond doubt that he is an agent of Mehemet Ali; he is decorated by him, and is a most dangerous man, for he has great talents both as an intriguer and a military leader, and is rapacious and cruel to a degree. The other Abuneked, his cousin, is equally rapacious, not so cruel, and quite inferior in ability to him. Both of them are the principal plunderers of silk, property, and lands. Their punishment, therefore, would be a measure of retributive justice to the Christians; and the restoration of their plunder to the Christians, would diminish the debt which this people demand from the Druses.

I told Sheik Hussein most distinctly, that I in no way whatever guaranteed your Lordship's support of the Emir Emin; that, as in duty bound, I should represent the state of feeling of the majority of the Druse chiefs; that I entertained, in common with most people, and had done so for a long time, a good opinion of the Emir Emin; but that those opinions only possessed the value of private opinions respecting his good character.

Sheik Hussein then gave me further proof of his sincerity, by proving to me that he had a personal interest in the return of the Emir Emin. He said, "I have talked about others, I am now going to talk about myself. I am very anxious that the Emir Emin should know that I was the first

Druse chief to state my desire to co-operate in his return, and I trust that he will reward me accordingly."

My experience of the inhabitants of this country makes me sceptical as to their statements and professions, until I perceive that they are influenced in making them by their personal interest. If they were judged by an European standard of morality, they would all be very deficient in its most essential requisite. They all intrigue, speak very little truth, and have a tendency to cut off the heads, and appropriate to themselves the property, of the members of their rival sects.

Sheik Hussein, however, has a strong desire to be thought an honest man, and gave back at my request a considerable sum for this country to a Christian, which he had taken from him during the late disturbances.

I beg to add also, that Sheik Naaman Djinblat, upwards of two months ago, requested to see my interpreter, Mr. Assad Kayat, when he told him that, for the sake of order, he would support either the ex-Emir Beshir, or his son the Emir Emin; and he afterwards told me, "That he would rather see the Shaitan (the devil) in the Mountain, than a Turkish Governor; and both he and Sheik Hussein offered an ineffectual resistance to his nomination.

The Christians unanimously petitioned the Porte for the Emir Emin two months ago, and the petition is now at Constantinople. A petition is now said to be in circulation through the Lebanon, signed by both Christians and Druses, in favour of the Emir Emin.

M. Bourrée read to me part of a despatch to M. de Bourqueney, in which, notwithstanding that he admits the good qualities of the Emir Emin, he expresses his conviction that his father would make the best Governor. The argument of M. Bourrée is true that the ex-Emir would make the best "Commissaire de Police;" but still it is not quite the one which would make it desirable that he should come to Syria with the sanction, and, as the people would think, by the choice of the Allied Powers, and still less of Great Britain, which may be said to have expressed a decided opinion respecting his demerits.

I venture to state my humble opinion that the appointment of the Emir Emin, in the present distracted state of the country, affords at least a chance of government, and hope to the oppressed that their misery is to cease. Hitherto, the whole influence of the Government has been employed to raise one faction and oppress the other; justice has been a mockery. And this conduct is not imputed to want of capacity, but universally and publicly to the policy of the Porte and to the venality of her servants; who, from the highest to the lowest, are accused of being bribed by the Druses. The reflection of the Christians, that the funds by which this people acquired the means for seducing the authorities were derived from the property plundered from them, from the plate of their churches, the gold ornaments of their women's dress, from their all, adds in their minds a deep feeling of contempt to the aversion which they already felt: feelings, which time, I think, will not overcome.

#### No. 114.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 5.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, March 2, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that subsequent to the arrival of Omar Pasha, as Governor of Mount Lebanon, at Deir-el-Kammar, the Christians of that town made complaints to his Excellency of fresh acts of misconduct of the Druse chiefs of that town, Nasif and Hamoud Abuneked, and their followers, towards them, such as robbery of their mules, ill-treatment of their person, &c., &c., &c.

It appears that Omar Pasha reproved the Druse chiefs, and ordered them to restore the property, and to conduct themselves better for the future.

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Irritated with the Christians, and with Omar Pasha, the chiefs determined to take vengeance of the one, and to show to the other that he quite forgot his position, and the peculiarity of the connexion subsisting betwixt the Turkish authorities and the Druses, when he took upon himself to do justice to the Christians, which in any way interfered with them, the Druses. "What," say the Druses, "we have fought for the Turks, and conquered; we paid them, moreover; gave them a large share of the spoil; and are we now to be coerced by the power which we have created?"

On the 14th, Omar Pasha ordered the streets of Deir-el-Kammar to be cleaned, preparatory to the arrival of Selim Pasha at that town; by others it is said, that the order emanated from the Druse chiefs. The latter, however, put the order into execution, by making the Christian inhabitants alone turn out, and clean the streets; whilst they were so engaged, twelve Druses, who directed them, on pretence that they did not work willingly, struck them, and made a signal, on which 200 or 300 armed Druses, who had been concealed in the houses, rushed out, and with large sticks and the flats of their swords, struck violently the Christians, who fled, but found the roads, particularly the one which led to Ibtedeen, the residence of Omar Pasha, blocked up by Druses, who also fell on them. Thus the unfortunate Christians were cruelly ill-treated, the Druses crying out, "Now go, and complain to the Pasha." Not less than twenty, and not more than sixty, of them were wounded, some seriously.

Omar Pasha having heard of the disturbance, went to Deir-el-Kammar; the Druses made light of the occurrence, and his Excellency returned without doing any sort of justice to the Christians; on the contrary, his appearance increased their discouragement, for it proved his entire inefficiency, and the paramount power of the Druses: for their chiefs, in aggravation of their offence, published an order in the mosque, that no inhabitant of Deir-el-Kammar, on any pretence whatever, was to present a petition, or complaint to any one but themselves; an act of sarcastic disobedience towards the Sultan's Representative, who had ordered, on the contrary, the inhabitants to address their petitions and complaints to him, and him alone.

Omar Pasha, it is currently reported, demanded afterwards the delivery to him of the twelve Druses who had commenced the disturbance, from their chiefs, when he received for answer, that they would be given up when 8,000 armed Druses had been disposed of.

On the 17th of February, letters arrived here from Omar Pasha to the Seraskier Selim Pasha, demanding ammunition and reinforcements, with the view of enabling him either to awe or to bring to obedience the Druses. Selim Pasha, vexed with a conduct which looked as if Omar Pasha intended to interrupt the friendly relations with the Druses, which had been hitherto carried on in so remarkable a manner by the whole of his, Omar Pasha's colleagues, called him a "Hein," (traitor,) a man who does not serve his Sovereign well, and a "Kafir," (infidel.)

On the 16th, M. d'Adelbourg proposed to me to make a collective consular representation to the Seraskier Selim Pasha, respecting the occurrence at Deir-el-Kammar. I agreed at once; but as the French Consul was absent, we determined to write separate letters, but in the same sense, to Mustapha Pasha at Damascus.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of my letter to his Excellency, and a copy of his reply.

I have the honour to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact, that Mustapha Pasha does not deny what I detailed in my letter to his Excellency, the proclamation of the Druse chiefs that the inhabitants were to state their complaints to them, and them alone, in opposition to the order of Omar Pasha that they, the inhabitants, were to address them to him, and him alone.

M. d'Adelbourg informs me, that he has learnt from a person who was present at a conversation betwixt one of the Druse chiefs of Deir-el-Kammar and Omar Pasha, that on his Excellency's remonstrating with the former on his treatment of the Christians, he said, that they, the

Christians, were servants or slaves of the Druses, and that the promise had been made to him to treat the Christians as such, and that he had the more right to do so, because his son had been killed in the late contest; and further, that if the Turks now attempted to make them, the Druses, act differently towards the Christians, and give up the property and land which he had taken, that he would expose the secret connexion and understanding betwixt the Turkish authorities and the Druses.

The contents of this despatch prove, that :—

1. The Druses, as I predicted, will not permit the Turks to coerce, or even exercise a legitimate authority over them.

2. That the Turks are either unwilling for many reasons, or unable to exercise that authority.

3. That the Christians are tyrannized over by the Druses, and look in vain for redress or protection to the Government of the country; and further, that their position is become one of degradation.

4. That Mustapha Pasha, the Sultan's Plenipotentiary, does not deny the right of the Foreign Consuls to address him in behalf of the Syrians, when the appeal is based on the ground of public security and humanity, that he conceals and makes light of the cruel outrage of the Christians, in the same manner that in his conversation with me on his arrival, he said, that the disturbances in the Lebanon had been greatly exaggerated; but still admits that the Druses commenced the assault, and beat the Christians; that the disturbance was so great that the Imperial troops interfered (but which they never did); and further, that he says nothing whatsoever of punishment of the offenders.

5. That Omar Pasha either had no intention to punish the Druse chiefs, or that he evinced the want of nerve to which I have before alluded.

The result to be anticipated is, that Omar Pasha, having signally failed in protecting the Christians under his own eyes with 4,000 men, and four cannon, unsupported and probably secretly reprovved by Mustapha Pasha, will before long adopt the convenient course followed by his colleagues, come to an understanding with the Druses, and make common cause with them; and that, although the wrongs of the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar and of the Lebanon will remain unredressed, and their sufferings be aggravated, we shall hear no more for the present of alterations betwixt Omar Pasha and the Druse chiefs.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

*Colonel Rose to Mustapha Pasha.*

Excellence,

*Beyrout, Février 17, 1842.*

IL n'est guère nécessaire que j'informe votre Excellence, que je suis chargé par mon Gouvernement de surveiller strictement les intérêts des sujets de la Grande Bretagne, habitans de ce pays, et la sympathie que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a de tout tems témoignée en faveur de l'humanité souffrante, est reconnue. C'est donc avec le plus grand respect, que je dirige l'attention de votre Excellence sur des circonstances qui mettent en péril, et la sécurité publique, et les intérêts de l'humanité; et je ne saurais peindre à votre Excellence la douleur que j'ai ressentie en apprenant que les malheureux habitans Chrétiens de Deir-el-Kammar, après avoir été assiégés, pillés, et ruinés, dussent éprouver, il y a peu de jours, que le terme de leurs maux n'était pas encore arrivé; et leur désespoir s'accroît à mesure qu'ils se voient pénétrés de la triste conviction que les troupes, qui, en tous pays, sont censés de protéger la loi et le bon ordre, n'ont fait aucun effort en défense de leurs personnes et de leurs biens.

Près de 4,000 troupes se trouvèrent à Ibtedin, et à Deir-el-Kammar,



et il y avait plus de 1,000 soldats réguliers dans cette ville, où la force militaire s'était rendue pour rétablir et raffermir l'ordre, lorsqu'une foule de Druses armés se jeta sur les Chrétiens, que leurs chefs avaient désarmés, les culbutèrent, les maltraitèrent, en en blessèrent gravement un grand nombre.

Le crime des souffrants paraît avoir consisté en ce qu'ils s'étaient plaints à l'autorité légitime d'une manière légitime, des actes illégitimes de leurs oppresseurs.

J'ose représenter avec le plus grand respect à votre Excellence, que la sécurité publique devient un phantôme, si les gardiens reconnus de l'ordre restent passifs spectateurs d'un tumulte, qu'il est de leur devoir de supprimer. Leur présence dans un pareil cas opère dans un sens contraire au but qu'ils étaient destinés à remplir, car leur inaction, tandis qu'elle encourage les malfaiteurs, ôte toute espérance aux opprimés.

Ce qui rend encore plus fâcheux un état de choses, à la vérité déjà suffisamment pénible, c'est que le seul résultat que l'apparition d'Omar Pacha a produit à Deir-el-Kammar, où il s'était rendu pour vérifier la cause du tumulte, et pour en punir les auteurs, a été une proclamation de la part des chefs Druses, dans laquelle ils prévinrent les habitants de la dite ville, de porter dorénavant leurs plaintes devant eux, et eux seuls, et non devant Omar Pacha, l'autorité représentante du Sultan, et le Gouverneur du Mont Liban, décret singulier, et peu consolant pour les Chrétiens, lorsque l'on réfléchit aux relations subsistantes actuellement entre ceux-ci et les chefs Druses de Deir-el-Kammar; et les habitants Chrétiens doivent être d'autant plus embarrassés à remplir les ordres des chefs Druses, vu qu'Omar Pacha, de son côté, les a engagés, et de plus leur a ordonné strictement de n'avoir recours qu'à lui seul en tout ce qui regarde leur condition, ou sujets de plainte.

J'ai été invité officiellement d'assister à la lecture du Hatti-Chériff au mois d'Avril de l'année passée, et j'ai lu avec la plus vive satisfaction les ordonnances remplies de bonté et d'humanité, qui sont émanées de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, le plus bienveillant des Souverains, avec l'objet d'assurer le bonheur et la position des Chrétiens de la Syrie. Au nom donc de l'humanité, de la justice, et de la sécurité publique, comme serviteur d'un Gouvernement qui a tant contribué à rendre la Syrie à son maître légitime, je supplie votre Excellence de prendre en considération la position actuelle de ses habitants Chrétiens, qui secondèrent les efforts des Alliés en faveur du Sultan avec tant de dévouement. Leur sort a déjà éveillé l'attention de l'Europe, et j'implore votre Excellence de prendre des mesures pour empêcher que leur abaissement actuel ne devienne pas une dégradation permanente, et que le sentiment amer de leurs malheurs ne se transforme pas en désespoir.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,  
(Signé) HUGH ROSE.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

*Beyrout, February 17, 1842.*

IT is scarcely necessary that I should inform your Excellency, that I am directed by my Government strictly to watch over the interests of the subjects of Great Britain, inhabitants of this country; and the sympathy which Her Britannic Majesty's Government has, at all times, manifested in favour of suffering humanity, is well known. It is therefore with the greatest respect that I direct your Excellency's attention to circumstances which put in peril both public security and the interests of humanity; and I cannot describe to your Excellency the concern which I have felt on learning that the unfortunate Christian inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar, after having been besieged, pillaged, and ruined, had to experience, a few days ago, that the termination of their misfortunes had not yet arrived; and their despair is increased in proportion as they are penetrated with the sad conviction that the troops which in all countries are looked upon as the protectors of law and good order, have made no effort to defend their persons and their properties.

Nearly 4,000 troops are at Ibtedeen and at Deir-el-Kammar, and there were



more than one thousand regular soldiers in that town, whither the military force had proceeded in order to re-establish and maintain order, when a multitude of armed Druses attacked the Christians who had been disarmed by their chiefs overthrew them, ill-treated them, and severely wounded a great number of them.

The crime of the sufferers appears to have consisted in their having complained to the lawful authority, in a lawful manner, of the unlawful acts of their oppressors.

I venture to represent to your Excellency, with the greatest respect, that the public security becomes visionary, if the recognized guardians of order remain passive spectators of a tumult which it is their duty to suppress. Their presence in such a case has a contrary effect to that which they were destined to bring about; for their inaction, whilst it encourages the evil-doers, deprives the oppressed of all hope.

That which renders more lamentable a state of things, already in truth sufficiently painful, is that the sole result which the appearance of Omar Pasha has produced at Deir-el-Kammar, whither he had gone in order to ascertain the cause of the tumult, and to punish the authors of it, has been a proclamation, on the part of the Druse chiefs, in which they warn the inhabitants of the said town to address their complaints hereafter to them, and them alone, and not to Omar Pasha, the representative authority of the Sultan, and the Governor of Mount Lebanon; a singular decree, and little consolatory to the Christians, when the relations at present subsisting between them and the Druse chiefs of Deir-el-Kammar are considered; and the Christian inhabitants must be so much the more embarrassed to execute the orders of the Druse chiefs, since Omar Pasha, on his side, has invited them, and has moreover strictly enjoined them, not to have recourse to any one but himself in everything which regards their condition, or matters of complaint.

I was invited officially to be present at the reading of the Hatti-Sheriff in the month of April of last year, and I have read with the liveliest satisfaction the ordinances full of goodness and humanity, which emanated from His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, the most benevolent of sovereigns, with the view of ensuring the happiness and position of the Christians of Syria. In the name then of humanity, of justice, and of public security, as a servant of a government who has contributed so much to restore Syria to its lawful master, I entreat your Excellency to take into consideration the actual position of its Christian inhabitants, who seconded the efforts of the allies in favour of the Sultan with so much devotion. Their fate has already attracted the attention of Europe, and I implore your Excellency to take measures for preventing their present abasement from becoming permanent humiliation, and the bitter feeling of their misfortunes from being changed into despair.

Be pleased, &c.  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

*Mustapha Pasha to the Austrian and British Consul-Generals in Syria.*

(Translation.)

February 25, 1842, (15 Moharrem, 1258.)

WE have read, word for word, the friendly letter which you wrote to us lately, and, as it is said there, in substance, that on the occasion of a quarrel betwixt the Druses and Christians of Deir-el-Kammar, the Druses had wounded some of the Christians, we have taken cognizance of the fact of which you inform us.

Our position requires that we should be informed, on the part of the public functionaries, established both in the Mount Lebanon and in the other places in Syria, of all events, great and small, so that we may acquire a knowledge of the occurrence and of the truth of every affair.

A report, therefore, has reached us of his Excellency Omar Pasha, the present Governor of the Mountain, which says, some Druses and some children of Deir-el-Kammar, collecting small stones which were lying scattered on the place destined to the game of the stick (Djerid), said to the Christians who were near that place, "Help us, you also, and let us clean this place."

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Upon the refusal of the Christians, a quarrel arose amongst them, and the Druses beat some of the Christians with a stick.

Omar Pasha being informed of the accident, put an end to the quarrel by means of the imperial troops stationed there.

We have understood that the quarrel of which you speak, is the same as that about which the said Pasha has written to us.

It is clear that we desire, beyond expression, the proper establishment of the repose and of the tranquillity of all the subjects of the Sublime Porte, living under the shadow of His Majesty the Sultan, and it is manifest that the occurrence of similar little quarrels in every Government, and especially in a place which, like the Mountain, has not yet returned under the laws of order, is derived from the natural will of men.

Desiring above all things that not even similar little affairs should take place, we shall perform, with the divine assistance, in these early days, our journey to Jerusalem and Acre: and as soon as we return to Beyrout, we shall so order it, that similar little things shall not happen again, and that, under the Imperial shadow, not one of the inhabitants of the Mountain shall cast even a side glance at his neighbour, and that everybody shall enjoy perfect tranquillity.

It is to make known to you the real state of the case that the present friendly letter has been written to you.

(Signed & sealed) MUSTAPHA MOHAMED.

#### No. 115.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 5.)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, February 27, 1842.*

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL IZZET PASHA, who supersedes Selim Pasha in his government of the Pashalic of Saida, arrived here on the 19th instant, to receive his instructions of his Excellency the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha.

#### No. 116.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 5.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, March 3, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship of the military preparations which the Local Government is making for an expedition into the districts of the Haouran and of Adjeloun, to suppress, it is stated, the seditious spirit manifested by the principal Sheiks, at the head of whom was the Sheik Mahmoud-el-Rifay, but who has since returned to his duty and has abandoned his party.

It is rumoured besides (a rumour at variance with the above report), that the expedition will proceed to the Haouran, and after increasing its strength by the addition to its forces of the Druses of that district, will enter the Ledgea to attack the Arabs that are committing depredations in that country. It is, however, certain, that the authorities have summoned to Damascus Emir Hasan-el-Faoud, chief of the Arabs of the tribe of El-Fasl, whose predatory excursions, together with the misgovernment of the authorities, have compelled the peasantry of those regions to abandon their villages and take refuge in Safet.

The real object of this expedition, which is to be commanded by Nejib Pasha, is kept a profound secret; but I may venture, respectfully, to offer two observations, namely, that either his Excellency is going into the Druse country, ostensibly to recall to obedience the villages that have refused to pay the taxes, but in reality with a political object, to which I will do myself the honour of calling your Lordship's attention in another despatch, or he is drawn gradually into the country of the Ledgea by the

notorious Druse chief, Shibli-el-Arian, to engage him in a disastrous and unprofitable warfare, to serve as a diversion to the Druses of Lebanon who, it would appear, have yet some secret views of their own, which they are anxious to execute, in spite of the presence of Omar Pasha among them.

Shibli-el-Arian, who is one of the shrewdest and most designing men in Syria, knows perfectly well the moral and spontaneous effect that a defeat of the Turkish troops would produce in the country; and as he has himself resisted successfully the superior forces of Ibrahim Pasha for a very long period, and only consented to an accommodation after destroying 25,000 men of Ibrahim Pasha's army, he must feel convinced that if he can engage the Turks in hostilities with the people of the Ledgea, they must either bear with the disgrace of a defeat, or they must exhaust very soon their limited military and pecuniary resources, which would leave his countrymen, the Druses, free to put their secret projects into execution with impunity, and without the fear of any serious opposition from the authorities.

The expedition, which was to leave to-day, but which has been deferred for a week, on account of the badness of the weather, will consist of two squadrons of regular cavalry, which have reached Damascus lately, one regiment of infantry, and about 1,100 of irregular horse, commanded by Shibli-el-Arian and Feriq-Agha. Colonel Mousa Bey will direct the operations under the command of Nejib Pasha.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

#### No. 117.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 5.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, March 6, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship's perusal translation of a letter I have just received from a Druse Sheik of Deir-el-Kammar indicative of the feelings of that portion of the inhabitants of Lebanon, and confirmatory of the anticipated schism amongst them, in consequence of the motives I have had already the honour of noting in the report which accompanied my despatch of the 27th January.

The demand of a part of the Druses for permission to attack such of their countrymen as have set aside lately the authority of Omar Pasha, whilst it corroborates, on the one hand, the differences existing amongst them, confirms on the other, the assertion of a powerful Druse faction being organized to oppose the Local Government.

The existence of this faction is the more alarming from the disaffection and discontent the Christians continue to manifest at the recent change in their Government,—a disaffection placed beyond a doubt by the positive fact of a petition having been transmitted lately to the Sublime Porte, signed by the most powerful and influential chiefs, soliciting the return and nomination of Emir Emin, son of the ex-Emir, to the Government of Lebanon.

The unfavourable issue of the above memorial will naturally hasten the coalition of the Christians and one of the Druse parties, either to render null the authority of the Turks, or to expel them altogether from the Mountain; a result which may be fairly anticipated, sooner or later, from the fact that the Sublime Porte has not only approved of the measure of substituting the authority of a Turkish Pasha for that of a Christian Prince of the house of Shehab, but has considered it of sufficient importance to evince its sense of the service rendered it by rewarding his Excellency with a robe and a sword of honour.

The extreme parties at present in Lebanon appears to be,—the Christians, who, whatever may be their national and family differences, seem united in claiming the privilege of having a Christian Prince, and have in consequence petitioned collectively the Porte in behalf of the Emir

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Emin; that portion of the Druses that, having acquiesced in the nomination of a Turkish Pasha, wish to maintain, either feignedly or sincerely, his authority, for the public tranquillity and the re-establishment of order, until the final solution of the question; and the Nekediyé faction, which is opposed to the two former and to the Turkish Governor.

This latter faction has undoubtedly acquired a very great ascendancy in the Mountains, and is the most dangerous from its relation with the Druses of Anti-Lebanon and the Haouran. The same letter alludes to their designs and projects, without, however, specifying either their character or extent; but whatever they may be, they can scarcely fail of a partial success, so long as the notorious Chief Shibli-el-Arian is connected with them.

The preceding facts and considerations tend to confirm the opinion I have ventured, respectfully, to state in my last report in reference to the motives that it is to be presumed had induced Shibli-el-Arian to encourage or promote the expedition of Nejib Pasha into the Druse country; namely, to serve as a diversion to the accomplishment of the designs alluded to, entertained by his friends the Nekediyé. His Excellency has been the more easily led into it from political considerations.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure No. 117.

*The Druse Sheik of Deir-el-Kammar to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Translation.)

WE have to inform you of what has lately occurred. On Tuesday, the 5th of Moharrem, the Sheiks Hamoud and Nasif Abuneked, were playing on horseback at the Meidan (hippodrome) of Deir-el-Kammar. They put in requisition the services of some Christians to clean the Meidan, whom they beat most cruelly, and wounded twelve, some of whom will probably die from their bruises. This has afforded also the opportunity for a partial pillage.

His Excellency Omar Pasha was highly displeased, and even meditated an attack on the Sheiks of the family of Abuneked, but was deterred from it from legal considerations, and deferred doing so until the arrival of Selim Pasha, who was expected to visit the Mountains, but who wrote, however, to announce his recall to Constantinople, and the appointment of Izzet Pasha in his room.

Everything is now in suspense; but from all appearances, it is no less certain that they, the Druses, intend to execute their designs, whilst it appears equally certain that the Pasha intends to act with the rigour that circumstances impose upon him; still, he meets with an impediment from the existing laws and regulations.

The murderers of the priests are not known, and little notice has been taken of this affair.

Sheik Naaman has retired from worldly concerns, and he is occupying his time with the affairs of the world to come. The rest, however, are still pursuing their designs, and the Pasha will not permit us to attack them, and exhorts us to patience, but we are afraid that, with patience, matters will arrive to the same result of which we have already to deplore the disasters.

Next to the Almighty, we have none but you, Sir: and we, therefore, solicit of you to honour us with your orders respecting our future conduct, in regard to which we are anxious to be made acquainted with your opinion.

We request of you the favour of a letter to Omar Pasha, imparting to him our allegiance and integrity; for although he is well-disposed towards us, yet a letter from you to his Excellency will increase his favour to us. An order from the Seraskier will have a good effect; and you are sensible that, after the Almighty, we have no one but you, and we are only in expectation of your counsel and opinion for our guidance.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 5.)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, March 9, 1842*

I VENTURE respectfully to state, that my observations of late, limited as they are, confirm the suspicions I have recently entertained of the organization, by the Turkish authorities, of a levy "en masse" of the Mussulman population, to oppose to any sudden attack or invasion of this country: an eventuality which they have been taught to expect.

They have been silently but perseveringly occupied, for the last few months, in bringing about a reaction in the feelings of the Mussulmans, not only in regard to strangers, but in regard also to their Christian subjects. The system pursued by them being general throughout Syria, it leads me to believe with other causes, that suspicions and doubts having been raised in their minds, they have communicated their misgivings to their own Government, and are now acting in pursuance of secret instructions from it.

The assertion I have ventured to make respecting the organization of a general resistance, in the event of an invasion, by a levy "en masse" of the Mussulmans, rests on the visible efforts made by the Turkish authorities to rouse the fanaticism of the population: to ingratiate themselves, by acts of even great condescension, with the Ulemas and Sheiks; to imbibe them with feelings of contempt and hatred for all that is European: to allure such as are momentarily beyond the attraction of their influence; to crush those who were upheld by Europeans, and uphold those who are notoriously opposed to them.

These acts are not confined to mere individuals, but are practised towards whole tribes, and explain, in a manner, their conduct in the late affairs of Lebanon, the indirect support they gave the Druses to reduce the power of the Christians, as well as their actual lenient deportment to the former in their acts of insubordination.

In like manner, Nejib Pasha's expedition into the Druse country has for political object the allurement of this people, by an ostentatious display of power, and by the grant of personal favours and an abundance of honours and presents.

Although these and similar means would fail of success with a refined people, yet they have their due effect with semi-barbarians; and the Turks, who have tried their efficacy in removing lately the national antipathies that existed between them and the Arabs for centuries past, have recourse to them with confidence.

In a conversation I have had with the ex-Grand Vizier Raouf Pasha, on the policy of ameliorating the condition of the Christian subjects of the Sublime Porte to prevent discontent, which might engender insurrection, and which would be difficult to suppress with their limited forces in Syria, his Excellency avowed that every Mussulman was a soldier by his religion, and in such an eventuality they would move them "en masse" against them.

They have attributed the late civil war in Lebanon to foreign agency; and with the sentiments they entertain, it is not improbable that their suspicions having been once excited, they are preparing themselves for such a contingency. They must feel besides, that the wrongs they are heaping daily on the Syrian Christians must drive them sooner or later to an open and an obstinate resistance.

Nejib Pasha was for a great number of years the "Kapu Kiaja," or Official Agent of Mehemet Ali at the Sublime Porte, and with the pretext of making arrangements for the pilgrims, he sent his Treasurer to Mehemet Ali; soon after which it was reported, with or without foundation, that the Egyptians had sent a great quantity of ammunition to El-Arish. This officer has since returned, and he has been dispatched secretly by Nejib Pasha on a mission to Constantinople, the object of which is not known.

This incident gives a semblance of truth to the assertion, that Mehemet Ali is not only instigating his old Kapu Kiaja to the policy pursued actually in Syria, but is instrumental in supporting it at Constantinople; in which task he may have probably foreign and secret abettors.

While, therefore, such are the prevailing sentiments of the Turks, it is not to be expected they will be made to relinquish openly and entirely the measures and the policy in operation in Syria, the continuation of which will finally produce a state of things which will involve the general interests of all, and plunge this country into evils far greater, and more disastrous in their consequences, than those we have had recently to deplore.

Perhaps the recall of all the present Governors would mitigate the action of these proceedings, but if they are put in operation in consequence of the directions of the Sublime Porte, it is to be presumed that no ordinary measures will induce it to effect an unreserved change in its policy.

## No. 119.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, April 27, 1842.

I HAVE received your despatches to the 9th March inclusive, and I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that I approve of the manner in which you have conducted yourself in the execution of your duties as Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus.

## No. 120.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, April 29, 1842.

I HAVE received your despatches to the 7th of March inclusive, and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which, as reported in your despatch of the 25th of February, you held to the Druse Chief Hussein Talhok, with the view of impressing him with the opinion that both Druses and Christians would find their common advantage in laying aside the feelings of animosity which have been the occasion of so much desolation and misery in Mount Lebanon. But you rightly observe that this reconciliation, if effected, should be coupled with submission to the lawful authority of the Porte, on the part both of the Druses and Christians. Her Majesty's Government would no less strongly deprecate resistance to the authority of the Porte, than they would the rivalry in acts of violence against each other of the different sects of the Lebanon. Whatever benefits the inhabitants of the Mountain may expect to derive from the interposition of the British Government in their favour, must be looked for by them in the character of obedient subjects only, and any act of rebellion on their part will not only be in itself displeasing in a high degree to Her Majesty's Government, but will also paralyze the exertions of the British Ambassador at Constantinople, who would interpose to little purpose in favour of a people who might have taken up arms against the Sultan.

It cannot be doubted that a sincere reconciliation between the Druse and the Christians would take away from the Turkish Authorities those pretexts for acts of violence against either of these parties, which the recurrence of disorder in the Lebanon could scarcely fail to afford. The misery which a contrary course must entail upon both will, it may be apprehended, be exemplified in the results which there is too much reason to anticipate from the arrival of the Albanian forces in Syria. Her Majesty's Government and her Ambassador at the Porte have exerted themselves to mitigate the evil consequences which may ensue from the presence of these troops in Syria; but you cannot too strongly impress upon all parties, that as by their civil dissensions they have brought such a scourge upon themselves, they can only expect effectually to be relieved from it by proving to the Porte that peace is restored to the districts of Lebanon, and that the public tranquillity will no longer be disturbed in those parts by the sanguinary contests of rival sects.

The dismissal of Selim Pasha from the Pashalic of Saida, the removal of

Nejib Pasha from Damascus, and the recall of Omar Pasha from the Government of Lebanon, which the Porte has promised, may, it is to be hoped, be the commencement of a better order of things in Syria. Your duty will be always to uphold, as far as may be, the authority of the Sultan in Syria; and when you see that the acts of his delegates are of a nature to weaken that authority, you will be careful to make your representations in a temperate manner, and in the language rather of counsel than of reproach, leaving it to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to determine, on your report of the facts, what degree of urgency it may be proper to give to any appeal which he may think it right to address directly to the Turkish Government.

Mr. Wood's conduct in the general execution of his duties as Consul at Damascus has been such as to merit the approbation of Her Majesty's Government, which I have accordingly signified to him.

No. 121.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, March 27, 1842.*

I VENTURE to say with the utmost respect that it affords me sincere satisfaction that my intercession for the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim has met with the approbation of Her Majesty's Government.

It will, I feel assured, afford your Lordship much satisfaction to hear that the Emir has been well-treated in Constantinople; and that he has expressed his sense of the kindness of Her Majesty's Ambassador, and of my exertions in his favour.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a letter from the Emir to me after his deposition, as well as a copy of a second one from him at Constantinople.

The interest which her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has taken in favour of the Christians has become known in the Lebanon: and acting on the principle, which I knew that Her Majesty's Government was desirous should be the guide of action for their agents in this country; namely, that all the sects should enjoy equal rights and justice, without favour or reference to religious belief, I have invariably acted in this sense, and have, therefore, since the time that the Christians have been unjustly treated, I may say persecuted, lost no fit occasion for representing to the Turkish authorities the great regret which late events would, I knew, cause to Her Majesty's Government; or for recommending the Christians to the sense of justice, and of humanity, of the Turkish authorities. If my efforts have been unavailing in only too many instances, still it is a consolation, that the representations of the agents of Her Majesty, and of other Governments, have diminished the sufferings, and averted much misery from the Christians: witness Deir-el-Kammar and Zahlé, both of which towns were saved from the fate awaiting towns taken by storm.

In March of 1841, in consequence of my representations, the civil governor of Beyrout (I was then, in the absence of Colonel Bridgeman, in the temporary command) made an apology, and paid fifty gold gazis to a Christian whom he had unjustly bastinadoed. In May, I obtained the removal of the Governor of Tyre for misconduct to Christians. Soon afterwards a joint representation from Captain Waldegrave, Her Majesty's ship "Revenge," Captain Pring, Her Majesty's ship "Thunderer," Mr. Moore and myself, obtained the revision of a sentence, which involved the delicate question of the inadmissibility of Christian evidence; the sentence was revised, and the prisoner, a Christian, released from chains and imprisonment.

Captain Pring, Mr. Moore, Mr. Werry, and Mr. Wood, have continually zealously exerted themselves in favour of the Syrians, without reference to sect or religion; and in proof of the present feeling of the Christians, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a letter written to me on my going to Jerusalem, from Bishop Tubia, the deputy of the Maronite Patriarch and Clergy at the meeting held by order of Mustapha Pasha, on his arrival from



Constantinople. The Maronite Patriarch has also written to me very friendly letters. Other proofs also of confidence on the part of the Maronites are not wanting; when the Druses proposed to fall on the Kesrouan, the Maronite Patriarch, even in November last, asked for refuge on board a British man-of-war; and Bishop Tubia, in January, on an alarm of his arrest by the Turks, requested an asylum in my house, should it prove to be correct.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

*The Emir Beshir-El-Kassim to Colonel Rose.*

After the usual compliments.

*The 5th Zilhadgi, 1257.*

THE extreme zeal which you have shown in assisting us is well known, particularly after the order that we were to be arrested, and sent to Constantinople, which we should have wished not to have been executed in this way. But as from the beginning we were forward in giving, without fear of the risk of shedding our blood, and losing our property, grateful service, which has been acknowledged by the exalted Government, the Sublime Porte, at the instance of our superiors, and the officers of your illustrious Government, who honoured with their presence the royal camp: and by the help of our supreme Sovereign we obtained the victory: and we continued with all sincerity our service, giving up ourselves for it, and no consideration shall ever make us turn from it: surely the Sublime Porte will not neglect its faithful servants.

Since you, Sir, have shown your zeal for us from the beginning, when you came to Deir-el-Kammar with Ayoub Pasha, whilst there was the war with the Druses, who had attacked the town, and we were shut up in it without any help, and on your arrival, by means of your assistance, the firing was stopped, and tranquillity in some measure restored, and as all our hopes are in your zeal, and in the kindness of your illustrious Government, who were the cause of our taking service, therefore we beg you to continue your assistance in all that regards our welfare, as you are aware of my good service, which is known to the Father of all.

(Signed)

BESHIR SHEHAB.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

*Emir Beshir-El-Kassim to Colonel Rose.*

After the usual compliments.

*Constantinople, Zilhadgi, 1257.*

WE tell you that we are arrived at Constantinople with every comfort, and we have received every attention, and we have sent our petition to his Excellency the Ambassador: and as the gracious permission has not yet been granted to us to kiss the hem of the garment of his Excellency the Chief Minister, we have not been able to go to any where yet, as the permission has not been granted to us to kiss the hem of the garment of the Grand Vizier; but his Excellency the Ambassador, in his kindness, has answered me that he will do every thing to my satisfaction for my interests, and when you write to his Excellency, we beg you to pray him to obtain for us our request, as our hope is in your zeal, which has made us grateful to you for ever.

(Signed)

BESHIR SHEHAB.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 121.

*Bishop Tubia to Colonel Rose.*

*Beyrout, January 17, 1842.*

WE inform you, that by God's blessing we have determined to go from Beyrout to our habitation to-morrow, but we have some difficulty in asking pardon of you for not having come in person to bid adieu to you, but

we were prevented by some business of importance, begging you to be so amiable as to excuse us; and this letter will tell you of our sincere friendship for you, and your amiable qualities; and we add, that when we arrive at the Patriarch we shall never fail to express to his Eminence all that we have seen of you in our sojourning here, and of the abundance of your singular zeal, and laudable acts as regards the Christian nation of Mount Lebanon, which is much in want of your kind zeal, and unitedly with his Eminence we give you our sincere thanks, praying the Almighty for the welfare of your gracious Sovereign, &c., &c.

(Signed) TUBIA OUN,  
Bishop of Acre.

## No. 122.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 4.)*

My Lord;

*Beyrout, April 8, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of a despatch of the 12th of March, from me to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 122.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Beyrout, March 12, 1842.*

IT affords me sincere pleasure, that the language of the Porte appears to indicate a more correct opinion as to the real state of affairs in this country. It will be a most grateful duty to my colleagues, and myself, when truth will permit us to state, that equal justice is dispensed to all of the Sultan's subjects in Syria. Such a state of things will instantly reassure the friends of humanity, and of public security, and those who uprightly, and with sincerity, seek to promote the real interests of the Porte, but which never can be attained by a policy, which excites and arms one-half of the community against the other half, a policy which can only be sustained by injustice, and nourishing the worst passions of a warlike, but benighted population. Such a policy must ever recoil with evil effect on its partisans: it has already done so in the present instance. The Turks have lost, I fear for ever, and totally, the esteem and confidence of the Christians, have not gained those of the Druses, and have excited in other quarters sympathies which had better never have been awakened.

The Turkish authorities can only exercise the power of a Government over the Christians, none over the Druses.

It is at least a satisfaction to me in circumstances which cause so little satisfaction, that, as a servant of Her Majesty's Government, I followed at the commencement of the late disastrous events a conduct, and gave advice, which, if followed, would have upheld the real interests of the Porte, and of humanity.

Ayoub Pasha and myself stopped the attack, and averted the fate impending over Deir-el-Kammar, and men of all parties now agree, that if the advice which I gave to the Turkish authorities to march troops to Deir-el-Kammar, and elsewhere, had been followed, the lamentable loss of life and property which ensued would never have taken place. But I was not hearkened to, because my counsel would have upset the secret object to be attained by the collusion betwixt the authorities and the Druses.

I can well understand the truth of the Reis Effendi's observations to your Excellency, that the reports of the functionaries of the Porte, Mustapha, Nejib, and Selim Pashas, did not tally with those of the Foreign agents. An occurrence, which has taken place since the transmission of my last despatches,

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throws light on the credence which is to be attached to the reports of the Foreign and Turkish functionaries.

Your Excellency remembers how lightly Mustapha Pasha treated the occurrences at Deir-el-Kammar, which he terms "a little quarrel," and a "little affair," adding, that Omar Pasha put a stop to it by means of the Imperial troops. I beg leave to say with certainty, that Omar Pasha did not do so, and that on the contrary he did not go to Deir-el-Kammar till the disturbance was over; and moreover, that the troops, so far from interfering, went to their quarters, from which they looked at the outrage; and in proof of the incorrectness of both Mustapha's and Omar Pasha's statements, I have the honour to inclose copy of an account of three respectable inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar. If then Mustapha Pasha can make so incorrect a report as he has done to M. d'Adelbourg and myself, who are living within a day's ride of Deir-el-Kammar, what will he not say to his Government at Constantinople? But it is become perfectly well known, that so alarmed was Omar Pasha at the attitude of entire independence, and lawlessness assumed by the Druses, that he wrote to Beyrout for supplies of troops and provisions.

But the most convincing proof of the seriousness of the affair at Deir-el-Kammar, and of the nullity of the authority of Omar Pasha, and of the reality of that of the Druses, is an occurrence to which I have already alluded, the flight from that town of three hundred of its most respectable male inhabitants, in the beginning of this month, to this town and Sidon. They left their wives and children, and on my asking them how they could do so, they stated that they could no longer bear the tyranny of the Druses, from whose insults and ill usage they enjoyed no protection from Omar Pasha; they added, that they were certain that the Druses would not violate their women, as there had, as yet, been no instance of their doing so.

Will Mustapha Pasha also treat this transaction as a light and little affair? Is it nothing when three hundred men leave in inclement weather their homes, their children, and wives, and become wanderers? His Excellency cannot deny that they have exiled themselves, for they can be counted, their names are known, and they could be sent to Constantinople to tell their own state. How then can he account for such an act to the Porte, of which I do not remember a parallel? Omar Pasha had not ruled for a month, when this voluntary expatriation of the people committed to his charge, and living within musket-shot of his residence, took place. A Pasha, 4,000 troops, four cannon advantageously posted, and well supplied with provisions, have allowed the Sultan's authority and his law to be set at nought. Three hundred Christians, rather than submit to further degradation, make themselves homeless vagrants; and these inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar are not faint-hearted men: they are known for their courage: the Druses acknowledge this, and I have twice seen them give proofs of their resolution.

In my report to your Excellency and Her Majesty's government, I always under, rather than over, state occurrences.

One fifteenth part of the outrages are not related; the sufferers prefer being silent to being exposed to the certain vengeance of the Druses, were it discovered that they had complained. The whole of the property of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim is taken possession of by the Druses, so is that of his brother the Emir Abdallah; it is true that Omar Pasha gave this latter person an order to the Druses to give him up his house at Ain-ik-Sur, which they obeyed by razing it to the ground and destroying the property; thus evincing the same degree of submission to the government of the Lebanon as the Druse Chiefs of Deir-el-Kammar had done. The whole of the property of the Emir Melkem, the richest man in the Lebanon, of the ex-Emir Beshir, is in the hands of the Druses and Mutualis. A ride of three miles from Beyrout, the seat of government, leads over lands of Christians legally bought, but now occupied by force by the Emir Emin Raslan, to whom Omar Pasha, by the first act of his government, gave the plain of Beyrout as his district; the province of Djebail is in the hands of the Mutuali Chiefs, who are so reduced in circumstances that one of them the other day stole a coverlet from a bed in a respectable house in Djebail. This person, by dint of presents of horses and tobacco to Selim Pasha, was made one of the governors of that province.

The bells in the places of worship have not been rung, and mass has not been said, for three months, where there is a mixed population of Druses and

Christians. Only yesterday I had three accounts of attempted violation of women by the Hawaras, or irregular Turkish cavalry, and yet Mustapha Pasha in his letter to me, he, the Sultan's plenipotentiary, says, "We desire beyond expression the proper establishment of the repose and of the tranquillity of all the subjects of the Sublime Porte;" and such a change, such a state of perfect order, is his Excellency's second appearance at Beyrout to produce, that he says, "When we return to Beyrout, we shall so order it that similar little things shall not happen again, and that under the Imperial shadow not one of the inhabitants of the Mountain shall cast even a side glance at his neighbour." If, as I suppose, his Excellency writes in the same self-gratified style to the Reis Effendi, it cannot be matter of surprise that this high functionary perceives an essential difference between the reports of his Excellency on the state of this country, and those of the foreign agents.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 122.

*Statement of Francis Butrus, Nahli Udeini, and Giorgius Abu Faiad, respectable Inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar, and Eye-witnesses of the Occurrence detailed below.*

THE Christian inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar had been continually vexed by the outrages and vexatious conduct of the Druses towards them; but there was no one who listened to their complaints or applications for redress, so that they were like sheep amongst wolves. A Christian, at last, made known to Omar Pasha the cruelties and wrongs which were practised, when his Excellency said openly, "No one has ever come to me to complain:" on this, some Christians stated to the Pasha their grievances. He demanded of the Druse chiefs and their people, explanation and redress, specifying that several mules, which had been taken by the Druses to transport their troops to Zahlé, should be restored.

Then was seen the use of the complaints, and the extent of obedience, for on the 2nd day of the month of February (in the Levantine reckoning) the Druse Sheiks Abuneked came down from their houses to Sahal-el-Belad, plain of the town, with their men, as if they were going to play the jereed, and, at the same time, they ordered their men to bastinado the Christians, and they began to beat them so much, till, in a short time, they were unable to rise; and sixty, from the severity of the beating, were more or less severely wounded, and one of them, Giorgius-el-Helta by name, died of the blows.

When the Druses were asked, why they acted thus, "Because you, the Christians, disobeyed our order to sweep the streets for the jereed;" and in order to excuse themselves, they said the same to the Pasha; but whilst they were beating the Christians, they said, "This is all your own doing for having accused us to the Pasha, and now you will know who are your masters, and that for whatever you tell against us you will receive far more than you have got now."

The Imperial troops looked from a distance at the grievous sufferings of the people, who had no one to save them, not even to intercede for them.

The day after the occurrence, his Excellency the Vizier came down from his païace to take informations of what had passed; he showed mercy to the ill-treated, but all that was done was an order which was sent round by the crier, that the accusers and the accused were to appear before the Druse Sheiks, and in this meaning, they stuck up notices in the streets.

No. 123.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen—(Received May 4.)*

My Lord,

Beyrout, April 8, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that yesterday accounts arrived here, that Omar Pasha had arrested, on the day previous, at Ibtdeen, five of the most influential of the Druse Chiefs, they are:—

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1. Sheik Nasif Abuneked, or Nasif Bey, hereditary Druse Governor of Deir-el-Kammar, and the best Druse military leader—I have frequently mentioned him.

2. Sheik Said Djinblat, 17 years old, brother of Naaman Djinblat, courageous, and talented as a soldier.

3. Sheik Hussein Talhook, head of the Talhooks.

4. Sheik Hootoor Amad, or Hootoor Bey, head of the house of Amad, with as good military qualifications as Nasif Bey.

5. Emir Ahmed Raslan, lately made joint Governor of the plain of Beyrout by the Turks.

It appears, that on the 6th instant, Omar Pasha invited these persons to dine with him at Maksuf, the summer palace of the ex-Emir Beshir, which is situated about half a mile above Ibtedeen, his usual residence. It is stated that Omar Pasha caused them to drink a good deal, and then asked them, a little before 3 o'clock, to proceed to Ibtedeen, where he resides, and there smoke and drink coffee. On their being seated on the divan, in the reception room in that palace, Omar Pasha ordered the band of the regiment to play, which the Druses considered was for their amusement, but which was a preconcerted signal, for at the first sound, a number of Turkish soldiers rushed in, seized, and disarmed the Druse Chiefs, who were immediately placed in prison; their attendants, amounting to thirty, were also seized by the troops, who instantly closed the gates, and occupied the palace.

Sheik Hamoud Abuneked, cousin of Nasif Bey, who was in the village of Nafrekood, on hearing of the arrest, immediately sent messengers to carry the "soot," or war-cry, through the Shoof and Arkub, and the Druse countries, seizing, also, forty Turkish regular troops, who were in the palace at Deir-el-Kammar, and depriving them of their arms; he also sent parties to occupy the pass of Djesr-el-Kadi, on the road to Beyrout, and others on the Sidon road.

Emir Emin Raslan, joint Druse Governor of Shoofaat, has collected three hundred armed Druses in that town as a precautionary measure. Mustapha Pasha has sent a Druse Chief, who was here, to desire him to be quiet, and not to commit follies.

Mustapha Pasha informed, yesterday, the French Consul, that he had received no communications from Omar Pasha; and a Christian who escaped from Deir-el-Kammar states, that he saw a messenger of Omar Pasha stopped by the Druses at the above-mentioned pass.

To-day M. d'Adelbourg saw Mustapha Pasha, who told him that the Druses had lately evinced insubordination to Omar Pasha, and that therefore he had made them prisoners. His Excellency said that Nasif Bey, he should have said Hamoud Abuneked, had advanced towards Ibtedeen with the intention of releasing his comrades, but had retired, on being told, that he, Abuneked, would repent the consequences, if he attempted to carry his object into execution. Mustapha Pasha added, that he intended to bring the Druse Sheiks here, and try them, and that affairs did not at present wear an alarming appearance.

With respect to the indemnities, his Excellency stated that he intended to make compensation to the Christians, but that it was a difficult matter, which required consideration; that he intended to call the Christian Chiefs together, and tell them something, and further, that he purposed to effect a general disarmament, that is both, of the Druses and Christians.

This morning Sheik Soliman Hemadi, a Druse Chief, and Commander of one hundred Druse horse, in the service of Omar Pasha, arrived here with a few Druse and Turkish horsemen, with a message from Omar Pasha, requesting, as it is reported, from Mustapha Pasha aid, as the Druses had occupied the heights round Ibtedeen, and the roads; besides, as it is stated, having cut off the water from Ibtedeen, which it is in their power to do. In Ibtedeen there is only a small spring, which would in no way suffice for the garrison of four thousand men now stationed in Ibtedeen, and in the neighbouring palaces of the other members of the ex-Emir's family; there is besides a tank. It is more probable that the message from Omar Pasha regarded the transport of the Druse Chiefs to Sidon.

Yesterday at sunset, Mohamed Pasha was sent by Mustapha Pasha to Sidon, to be ready to move with the troops, under Ali Pasha, in all about one thousand three hundred men, upon Deir-el-Kammar.

With respect to the feeling of the inhabitants of the Lebanon in the present critical state of affairs, I have the honour to say, that the leading Christians in

Beyrout, the members of the Shehab family, Abusumra, the Maronite Leader, and others, have tendered their military services to Mustapha Pasha, against the Druses, their feeling of revenge and hatred towards them, together with their desire of indemnifying themselves for their losses, having overcome their aversion for the Turks.

Delicate questions have been put to me by these Christians concerning this matter.

Emir Abdallah Shehab, who commanded in the late disturbances a division of the Christian army, asked me whether he should, or should not, offer his services to the Seraskier; the answer involved most important considerations.

1. It lay with the Turkish authorities to call, or not call, for the services of the subjects of the Sultan.

2. The arrest of the Druses was an act of the Turkish authorities, lying between the Turkish Plenipotentiary and that people, and confined to these parties. But if the Maronite people were mixed in the question, as belligerents against the Druses, it then gave to the transaction a totally different appearance, imparting to what was only a point of difference between the legitimate authority and the Druses, the character of a civil war, more especially so, when it is considered that the civil war betwixt the Druses and the Maronites had only ended with the last year; therefore, if I had advised the Christians to offer their services to the Pasha against the Druses, I, a foreign agent, should have been guilty of the impropriety of aiding to convert a simple question, which might have been easily settled between the Turkish authorities and the Druses, had it been left solely to them, into a complicated one, and into a sanguinary contest, of which it would be difficult to see the end or the result; for the Druses might readily have made concessions to their legitimate superiors, which they never would have yielded to their hereditary enemies. Besides it has been a rule with me, and which has been approved by Her Majesty's Government, to give advice which will bring about peace, but not excite the angry passions of this wild people.

I consulted M. d'Adelbourg on the subject: we exchanged opinions, and having agreed entirely in them, determined to answer the question which had been put to me, and might again be put to both of us, by stating that those who had made the question might act as they chose, provided they acted as faithful subjects to the Sultan.

I have since learnt that the members of the Shehab family have offered their military services to the Pasha.

Abusumra, the Maronite leader, was asked by Mustapha Pasha how many men he could bring to his, the Seraskier's, service: he answered a thousand Christians immediately, and three thousand in a few days. This person and another asked me whether they should obey the order of the Seraskier, were he to call upon him for his assistance. I advised them to obey the orders of their authorities,

With respect to the feeling of the Druses, the vassals of the arrested Sheiks, they are indignant against the Turks, but entirely perplexed as to what mode of proceeding they had best adopt. Animated by a pure feeling of feudalism they would make any sacrifice to save the lives of their imprisoned Chiefs, but this very feeling makes them hesitate to strike the blow, which even if it were successful, might cost the lives of their leaders; for Omar Pasha has given them to understand, that if they attack him, the lives of the Chiefs will be forfeited; he has also placed two guns in position against Deir-el-Kammar. I have not yet heard whether they are aware of the intentions of the Turkish authorities, to send from Ibtedeen their prisoners to Sidon, and embark them from that port on board the Turkish man-of-war steamer, which proceeded there last night. It is possible that the Turkish Authorities will deceive the Druses as to their intentions, by entertaining negotiations with them for the release of their chiefs and in the mean time, by a rapid and sudden march convey them to Sidon.

The distance from Sidon to Ibtedeen is six hours and a half; half of the road can be travelled with rapidity by a horseman, the remaining is broken and somewhat difficult. The road from Ibtedeen to Sidon does not pass through Deir-el-Kammar. A very trifling delay will, however, make the Druses aware of the movements of the Turkish steamer, and enable them to occupy with a considerable force the most difficult paths of the Ibtedeen and Sidon roads.

The Turks, to cover the movement upon Sidon, may make a feigned attack by the extremely difficult direct road from Beyrout to Deir-el-Kammar, and



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Ibtedeen, and in this they would be assisted by six or seven thousand armed Christians, who would also make diversions by other roads, which might be converted into real attacks, if they found the Druses weakened by their concentration on the Ibtedeen and Sidon roads; but all these speculations may be useless, should the Druses, perplexed by the peril hanging over their Chiefs, disheartened by the absence of those who hitherto successfully led them in combat, and awed by the Turkish alliance, become as disunited in counsel and action, as were the Maronites in their late contest, and not even make a struggle.

Sheik Hamoud Abuneked, who now takes the lead, has no head. There is also a party amongst the Akal, or enlightened Druses, who do not disguise that they consider the arrest of the Druse Sheiks as a just retribution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 124.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, April 5, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that Mustapha Pasha returned to Beyrout on the 1st instant from Acre.

Throughout his journey, Mustapha Pasha appears to have used his authority to rouse the fanatical feelings of the Mahometans, and it is stated that he has induced influential persons to sign a petition against the return to power of the Shehab family, as likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the Sultan and of good Mussulmans. These petitions are utterly valueless, except in so far as they show the feeling, not of the pretended petitioners, but of the authorities who dictate them.

On the other hand, Mustapha Pasha does not appear to have made use of the extraordinary powers vested in him for punishing crime and misconduct amongst either the upper or lower classes. Such a mode of proceeding was imperatively necessary, for the sake of example, in the wild and lawless districts which he traversed. Unfortunately the proofs which he gave of venality, and a desire to awaken fanaticism, the existence of which all must deplore, will not tend to raise the character of the Turkish government, or promote concord and good order.

In illustration of what I have said, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a letter from the Vice-Consul at Jaffa.

The Superior of the Jesuit establishment here, Father Planchet, called on me a few days ago, and drew a highly coloured picture of the effects of Mustapha Pasha's policy and journey. He said that he had made a secret treaty with the Bedouins of the desert, that on any trifling alarm they were to fall on Damascus, and plunder and pillage a Christian population. He said, that the Turks had deceived the foreign Ministers by sending Mustapha Pasha to carry out the contrary of what the Porte had promised to them. He considered the arrival of the Albanians as the greatest misfortune that could befall Syria, and was very anxious that I should request Her Majesty's Ambassador to prevent their coming.

In as far as regards the Albanians, the evils attendant on their appearance cannot be too strongly characterized. They are a cruel banditti, and will act as such wherever they are.

Mustapha Pasha has sent a firman, believed to emanate from the Porte, to Omar Pasha, to collect from the Druse Chiefs the amount of the property of the Emir Beshir-El-Kassim plundered and destroyed, amounting, it is said, to 2600 purses; the Druse Chiefs, Abunekeds, the principal plunderers, made excuses, on which Omar Pasha told them that he had received a positive order. They requested three days to consider, and they have assembled the Druse Chiefs to debate on the matter.

Mustapha Pasha has ordered the Christian and Druse Chiefs to assemble at Beyrout; the Druses having evinced tardiness in doing so, he sent a second order.



On the 3rd instant, the deputies of the Christians who had been expelled from their homes, and plundered by the Druses, sent in their petition for redress to Mustapha Pasha. He received their representations civilly, told them to come again the next day, when he said that he had a great deal to do, but desired their attendance to-day, when his Kiaja said that the question was a very important one, and could not be settled till after the Lebanon Chiefs had assembled.

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Inclosure in No. 124.

*The Vice-Consul at Jaffa to Colonel Rose.*

TO-DAY I heard that two collisions took place between Hussein Semhan, Sheik of Beni Haret-el-Shmeli, and his cousin Abd-el-Hatif Semhan. In the first combat both parties lost four men, and in the second eighteen.

The Sheik and inhabitants were much alarmed at the arrival of Mustapha Pasha; but as he passed through this country without punishing any one, or changing any of the Chiefs, in fact without doing anything but receiving presents, they, the Sheiks and inhabitants, have been by this behaviour encouraged to continue their quarrels, and to refuse payment of their debts which they had contracted with merchants. In such a state of things, there exists no form of government, no justice, and everybody is allowed to do what he pleases.

The presents received by Mustapha Pasha are seventeen horses, from Sheik Mahmoud Abdul Hadi, and several sums of money: promising him, that on his arrival at Constantinople, he would have him named, by the Sultan, Governor of this district. He received several other presents, and sums of money from Sheik Said II Mustapha, Muhassil of Gaza, and his son Mustapha II Said, Muhassil of Jaffa, promising them many things at his arrival in Constantinople.

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No. 125.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 4.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, March 28, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of my report of the 23d instant to Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople, relative to the overtures made by some of the Druse Sheiks to the Christians to compound their late differences, and to bind themselves by a written compact of unity and friendship for the mutual security of their interests: together with copies of my correspondence with the Maronite Patriarch, in pursuance of his Excellency's instructions to me, to observe and to counteract any dangerous impressions, which the knowledge of the step taken by his Excellency, in concert with the Representatives of the Allied Courts at the Sublime Porte, regarding the future government of Lebanon, may produce in the minds of the mountaineers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 125.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, March 23, 1842.*

IN my despatch of the 12th of January last, I have ventured to assert that, although the Druses had acquiesced in the nomination of a Turkish Governor in Lebanon, nevertheless they were afraid that the destruction of the

rights of the Shehab family, and those of the Christians, would be establishing a precedent injurious at the end to their own privileges, and were, therefore, inclined to side with that portion of the Christians that entertained notions similar to their own.

I have now the honour to state that a number of powerful Druse Sheiks have made overtures to the Chiefs of the Christians to unite with them for the better security of their mutual interests, inviting them to sign a solemn compact of unity and friendship, with the promise of coming to an amicable arrangement in regard to the pillaged property.

The Christians, who entertained previously the project of holding a secret assembly for the purpose of taking their condition into consideration, and of adopting such resolutions as circumstances might render expedient, have taken advantage of the proposition of their rivals to hold their meeting more openly, under the pretext of considering the nature and contents of the "Hogget," or compact.

The Christians have the more readily acceded to the proposal of the Druses, from the necessity they are under of not displeasing them by the rejection of their overtures, which would place them in a worse position, in the event that the Porte persisted in maintaining the government of Lebanon in its present form.

Whilst the above fact indicates a coalition of the Christians and a portion of the Druses, with the evident object of strengthening mutually their position against the local government, the Druse nation at large are alarmed at the consequences of their late proceedings, in case that the Porte should cease to defend and protect them.

I have addressed a letter, a translation of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith, to the Patriarch, the spiritual and temporal chief now of the Maronite nation, communicating to him, in confidence, the step which your Excellency was pleased to take at the Porte, and enjoining him to use the ample means he possesses of maintaining tranquillity and order. In his reply, he gives me every assurance he will use his utmost exertions to prevent any occurrence that might interrupt the seeming peace of the mountains, so far as his people are concerned.

I have also made a similar communication to a family of Sheiks of considerable power and influence in the mountains, whose reply, which I feel confident will be also satisfactory, I will do myself the honour of submitting to your Excellency.

I have transmitted besides to the Patriarch a letter addressed to me (a translation of which I beg to inclose) by his agent at Constantinople, the Rev. Nicola Murad, confirmatory of the statement I have made to him, in the hope also that the communication made therein of the lively interest which your Excellency is pleased to take in their welfare, will remove from the minds of the Prelate and of the Christians the unfavourable impressions which the false reports widely propagated among them by designing men respecting us were calculated to produce.

Omar Pasha is actually at Beyrout waiting the return of the Seraskier. It is said that finding his position a very precarious one in the mountains, he has tendered his resignation, but I do not think it probable he would venture to frustrate the plans of his own Government at this moment, since the act would be an indirect avowal of the impossibility of a Turkish Pasha governing the mountains; although it would scarcely require such a step to establish a fact which the Druses of Deir-el-Kamar have sufficiently elucidated by the assumption of all real power, which they are exercising actually to the extent of even farming some of the public revenues, and appropriating the proceeds.

A corps of Irregulars, in proceeding to the destruction of the powder mills, were opposed by the mountaineers in one of the villages, and a soldier was wounded in consequence; but Omar Pasha proceeded to the spot, released those who were arrested, and appeased the disturbance. The three Princes that were seized in the district of Meten were also liberated.

It was affirmed some time ago, that the Christians were expecting ammunition from Leghorn; it is now stated that they have received it, but I cannot vouch for the correctness of the report.

The Austrian Consul-General went on the 17th instant to the Maronite district of Kesrouan to confer with the Patriarch.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 125.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Maronite Patriarch.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

*Damascus, March 17, 1842.*

I HAVE just received a letter from the Reverend Nicola Murad, your Eminence's agent at Constantinople, a copy of which I have the honour of enclosing herewith, that you may feel persuaded of the interest that his Excellency the Representative of Her Britannic Majesty, takes in the prosperity and welfare of your people, and of his Excellency's exertions at the Porte to contribute to their future happiness and tranquillity.

The efforts of the representatives of the Great Powers to procure an arrangement for the Government of Mount Lebanon suitable to the genius and wants of the people, must be a sufficient guarantee to your Eminence of the great and deep interest the allied Courts take in the well-being of the Lebanites; and that, therefore, when such a powerful influence is exerted in their favour, it becomes not only superfluous, but even dangerous, for them to attempt at this moment to execute any plans they may have of their own. Their own individual or collective acts, whilst they will serve only to interrupt the negotiations going on at Constantinople in their behalf, will also, by rousing again the suspicions of the officers of the Porte, stimulate them in the pursuit of a policy, the injurious effects of which they have unfortunately experienced already. I sincerely trust, therefore, that your Eminence will see the urgent necessity of remaining perfectly quiet until the decision of the Sublime Porte, in concert with its allies, becomes known.

I have, in consequence, addressed this confidential letter to you in the hope and expectation that your Eminence will use your utmost power and influence to press upon both the Chiefs and the people, by the ample means you possess, the importance of their remaining peaceable, and of refusing to listen to the insidious suggestions and insinuations of such designing men as may endeavour, by exaggerated and false reports, to excite them to acts which cannot but be viewed with pain by the allied Cabinets, which are taking cognizance of their condition, and which are desirous of serving them, with a due consideration for the sovereignty of the Sublime Porte.

(Signed)

RICHARD WOOD

## Inclosure 3 in No. 125.

*The Maronite Patriarch to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

*Mount Lebanon, March 20, 1842.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential letter of the 17th instant, the contents of which I have perfectly understood, and which come in confirmation of your known zeal and exertions in our behalf.

You are pleased to press upon me the necessity of maintaining tranquillity and order, not to compromise the peace of the mountains and interrupt the negotiations going on at Constantinople.

This is perfectly correct, and I repeat my assurance, that I will use every effort to maintain tranquillity to the utmost of your wishes. Nothing shall occur to interrupt it, and should you receive any information to the contrary, rest assured of its incorrectness, and attribute it to the machinations of designing men, since nothing is likely to take place to disturb it;—and on my part I am endeavouring to maintain it to the utmost of my power.

I have duly noted the contents of the letter of my agent to you, to whom I have communicated the state of affairs per "Phoenix" steamer, since which period nothing of importance has taken place.

The statement of my agent relative to the great exertions of his Excellency the Ambassador of Great Britain at the Porte in our favour, independently of the consolation it afforded me, I am more than convinced of his Excellency's goodly and powerful efforts for our welfare. Be persuaded that our only hope

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and consolation rest on the effective intervention of his Excellency, which we owe in part to your good offices.

On my part, I offer to the Almighty my vows the most fervent for the preservation of your magnificent Government and of its power, and for the preservation of the happiness of its representative and of yourself—for, from all times, we have been benefited by its unceasing benevolence towards us; and now we repose with confidence in its favourable interposition within the halo of which we seek refuge.

(L. S.) YUSSUF HABESH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 125.

*The Reverend Nicola Murad to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Translation.)

*Constantinople, February 23, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you with the zeal and exertions of his Excellency the Ambassador of Great Britain in behalf of the interests of the Christians of Lebanon, the efforts of whom have been great in their favour, in concert with the representatives of the other great powers.

Their Excellencies have demanded of the Sublime Porte the execution of its promises to the Lebanites, particularly with regard to the legitimate and ancient right of having Governor a Christian Prince of the House of Shehab. To the present date their Excellencies have not received a satisfactory answer to their representations, but as his Excellency your Ambassador is pressing more especially the Porte on this material point, its concession is hoped for finally. I am anxious that this should be duly made known to you, although, I presume, his Excellency the Ambassador will have acquainted you with it, since his Excellency has been pleased to express his satisfaction at your conduct.

I call upon the Almighty to bear witness that I do justice to the exertions you have displayed for the general good of all; for, although I have not the pleasure of being personally acquainted with you, yet the repute you have acquired by your laudable efforts in behalf of the happiness and prosperity of my nation, compel me to evince my gratitude in all circumstances, and to remain attached to you for life, &c. &c.

I inclose a letter for our Patriarch, which I beg you will be pleased to cause to be transmitted to his Eminence without delay and without publicity; and to acknowledge its receipt and safe delivery, by return of post, through his Excellency the Ambassador, together with any information you may judge fit to give me respecting the present position of affairs in Lebanon, as well as your own opinion with regard to the line of conduct I ought to pursue; all of which I will consider as strictly confidential.

(Signed) NICOLA MURAD.

No. 126.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, March 29, 1842.*

I VENTURE, respectfully, to inclose herewith extract of the correspondence between Namik Pasha and the Governor of Phtiotide, under date the 11th of February, which announces the official fact that a corps of no less than 5000 Albanians, under the command of Abbas Aga and of the son of Omar Pasha Vrioni, is about to be embarked at Volo for Beyrout, for the object, it is stated, of co-operating in the re-establishment of order in Syria.

At the close of the late war, Zachariah Pasha ordered a body of about 1000 Albanians to join the army of Syria; but such was their disorderly conduct on their march, that the Porte saw itself obliged to withdraw them, in consequence of the representations of the Representatives of the Allied Powers,

to prevent the occurrence of serious misunderstandings between these auxiliaries and the natives.

The experience I have had of the misconduct of these troops, both during the late war and in the war in Koordistan, makes me anticipate the greatest evils and disasters from their re-appearance and co-operation in these provinces in numbers so great.

The Albanians are considered as good mountain troops, and are consequently mostly employed in mountain warfare. I have, therefore, no hesitation in stating, respectfully, my conviction, that the local Government intends to employ them in Lebanon, and they are, perhaps, destined to form a part of the 12,000 men whom the Seraskier has the project of quartering in the mountains to operate according to circumstances.

If the above presumption, based upon the known intentions and sentiments of the authorities, be correct, that these licentious and undisciplined troops are to be distributed in the villages, scenes of great horror and devastation must ensue: and, I may add, indeed, the total ruin of Mount Lebanon, hitherto the asylum for all oppressed Syrian Christians, and even for Europeans, without distinction, in times of danger and insecurity.

It is not improbable that the arrival of these auxiliaries will be followed by an attempt to disarm the Mountaineers: but whether the attempt will be made first with the Druses or the Christians, or the arms of both demanded at the same time, it is difficult to determine beforehand.

It is not to be expected, however, that the Druses will deliver up theirs without a serious opposition: and should the arms of both parties be demanded indiscriminately, it will hasten a coalition between them, in which contingency the resistance will be more obstinate, and the prolongation of hostilities in Lebanon may be, at the end, productive of great confusion in other parts of Syria.

With all the severity of Ibrahim Pasha, and the superior discipline of his troops, his Irregulars often committed disorders, and his Albanians excesses of a revolting nature, notwithstanding that he had a regular army of 60,000 men to keep them in check.

According to the Seraskier's statement to me, the whole of the Turkish regular troops do not exceed 60,000 men, of whom about 17,000, and perhaps not so many, are in this country. It follows, therefore, that of the 50,000 men that are to be stationed in Syria, 33,000 are to be Irregulars and Albanians, ever whom the Turks will never be able to exercise any control whatever.

The defective administration of the finances has occasioned a constant deficit in the Hasné of Syria, so much so, that the authorities have had recourse repeatedly to the treasury of Constantinople for money to pay the troops, which was, and is still, remitted to them slowly and with reluctance. Unable, therefore, to pay the arrears of about 22,000 men (regular and irregular), they will never have it in their power to pay with any degree of regularity an army of 50,000 men, which will be availed of largely by the irregulars as an excuse for their unrestrained licentiousness.

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Inclosure in No. 126.

*Namik Pasha to the Governor of Phiotide.*

(Extrait.)

1<sup>er</sup> Moharrem (11 Février, 1842.)

D'ABORD je m'empresse de vous assurer que je n'ai aucune connaissance, aucun avis des bruits et des informations dont il est question dans votre lettre, et qu'il ne m'en est pas venu d'aucune part la moindre notion. Il est vrai que, par ordre de la Sublime Porte quelques centaines de Saliotes, ayant à leur tête Abbas Saliote, ont été enrôlés, mais ces recruts, fixés d'abord à 500 hommes, et qui, par suite d'un ordre postérieur, devront compléter le nombre de mille, sont destinés pour la Syrie, devant se rendre au port de Volo pour être de là transporté à Beyrout; et je pense que jusqu'à présent vous avez été aussi informé que les troupes en question n'ont nullement l'intention de faire du tort à votre pays. Une preuve de la vérité de ce fait c'est que, non seulement ici, mais encore en Albanie, on procède en ce moment à l'enrôlement de 4,000

soldats destinés également à co-opérer à la tranquillité de la Syrie. Cette mesure n'est ni secrète ni mystérieuse ; elle est connue et visible à tout le monde.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

1st Moharrem, (February 11, 1842.)

IN the first place I hasten to assure you that I have no knowledge or advice of the reports and information referred to in your letter, and that not the slightest idea of the sort has reached me. It is true that, by the orders of the Sublime Porte, some hundreds of Saliotes, having at their head Abbas Saliote, have been enrolled, but these recruits, at first limited to 500 men, and who by a later order are to complete their numbers up to a thousand, are destined for Syria, as they are to go to the port of Volo, in order to be transported from thence to Beyrout; and I believe that at the present time you have likewise been informed that the troops in question have no intention of doing mischief to your country. A proof of the truth of this fact is, that not only here, but also in Albania, 4,000 soldiers, destined in the same manner to co-operate in re-establishing tranquillity in Syria, are being enrolled. This measure is neither secret nor mysterious : it is known, and visible to all the world.

No. 127.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 4.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, April 4, 1842.*

WITH reference to my Report of the 3rd of March, relative to the military expedition into the Haouran, I have the honour to state, that Nejib Pasha left Damascus on the 10th ultimo, and proceeded to Mezareib, where he was joined by Maimmoud Effendi, Governor of Djebail-Nablous, and Hassan Bey, the newly appointed Governor of Adjeloun.

With their assistance, he has collected a great number of irregulars. He has sent for a fresh supply of ammunition and material, 200 camels' loads of which have been sent to him but very lately. Yesterday, an order was received from him to the Ispahies (yeomanry) to join him immediately with a battalion of infantry.

Shibli-el-Arian has procured permission, and has attacked the Arabs of Fehaili, encamped near Berka, from whom he captured, it is stated, 8000 sheep, and other cattle.

The Sheiks Daoud and Hansaf have refused to obey the summons of the Pasha, as well as the Sheiks of the districts of Adjeloun and Erbid ; and it is expected, in consequence, he will attack their inhabitants before he proceeds further to the south-east.

These mountaineers have not only refused to pay the taxes, but, after expelling their former Governor, they have not allowed his successor Hassan Bey to take possession of his post.

As Nejib Pasha has neither a sufficient force with him, or money to reduce to obedience the districts of Erbid, Adjeloun, and the Ledgea, he will have recourse to the expedient of dividing the Sheiks among themselves.

By these means, he will secure the co-operation of one of the parties, and will weaken and intimidate the other into submission ; indifferent, of course, whether such a measure will not be sowing the seeds of future discord and quarrels of blood among them. The success of this expedition remains yet a matter of great doubt, notwithstanding that through the medium of Shibli-el-Arian many of the Druses have joined it.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 128.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)*

My Lord,

Damascus, April 19, 1842.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 3rd of March and 4th of April, relative to the expedition of Nejib Pasha to the south-eastern districts, I have the honour of inclosing herewith translation of an official letter addressed to me by the Kiaja Bey, announcing the taking of the Ledgea.

Notwithstanding the manner in which the success of the expedition is spoken of, I may be permitted to state, respectfully, that, after collecting all the facts in my power respecting it, it does not appear to merit the importance which it has pleased the authorities to attach to it. In fact, Nejib Pasha has gained, with presents and with promises, all the chiefs in that vicinity who had so courageously defended the Ledgea against the Egyptians, to remove beforehand the possibility of any opposition.

Sheik Hartash, the Prince of the Arab tribes that roam in those wastes, had also joined early Nejib Pasha, at Mezareib, after which, Shibli-el-Arian entered, unopposed, with the Druses he had assembled, the passes of the Ledgea, captured 3000 sheep and 100 camels, the property of a few wandering Arabs, who, forsaken by their principal chief, had fled to the desert. The Pasha has been endeavouring since to persuade them to return, change their roving life, and establish themselves in the deserted and ruined villages in that neighbourhood—an object very laudable in itself, but scarcely feasible with the known wandering habits of the Arabs.

Nejib Pasha has summoned also the Sheiks of the Souloot Arabs to whom he gave robes of honour, in return for which they have consented to furnish annually the Government with a certain quantity of oil, in lieu of Miri, according to an old established custom.

He is now moving on Djebail Adjeloun, to install the newly appointed Governor, whose authority the mountaineers refused to acknowledge.

Neither the precise period of his return, nor his future intentions are known; but it appears, however, almost certain that he has had some misunderstandings with Shibli-el-Arian; and that this individual is actually dismissing all the Turkish Irregulars in his pay, and is enlisting Druses in their stead. He has sent besides one of his relatives to endeavour to withdraw secretly, it is said, his family from Damascus.

As it does not appear that since the very recent events in Lebanon, the same confidence exists between him and the Pasha, he may entertain some intention of evincing his disaffection and mistrust by retiring from the Turkish service.

The new Defterdar has proceeded to Beyrout to receive his instructions from the Seraskier.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

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Inclosure in No. 128.

*The Kiaja Bey to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments. *Damascus, Safer 29, 1258. (April 10, 1842.)*

PRAISE be to God! To add to the lustre of His Imperial Highness, a tatar has this instant brought the gratifying intelligence that my master, His Excellency the Pasha, has taken and has subdued the Ledgea and Sefa, hitherto the resort of miscreants, the rebellious Arabs therein having fled to the Desert.

As these news cannot but be agreeable to all, particularly as from the difficulty of access to these places the former Administration (Egyptian) was unable to subjugate them, notwithstanding its efforts for some years, which shows that their conquest this time is only attributable to the felicity of



His Imperial Majesty, a salute of nineteen guns has been fired to commemorate this happy event, and the present friendly letter has been addressed to you to announce this pleasing intelligence.

(L.S.) AHMED SADIK.

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No. 129.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, April 21, 1842.*

I HAVE the honor of transmitting herewith, copy of my despatch of yesterday's date to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Sublime Porte, relative to the removal of Nejib Pasha to the Government of Bagdad, and the nomination of Ali Pasha, of the former place, to the Pashalic of Damascus.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

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Inclosure in No. 129.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, April 20, 1842.*

THE arrival yesterday of two tatars from Constantinople bringing the intelligence of the removal of Nejib Pasha to Bagdad, and the appointment of Ali Pasha of that place to the Pashalic of Damascus, has created a very great public sensation. From the numerous visits I have received already from the most respectable Turks of this city, I infer that this change has given general satisfaction.

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No. 130.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, May 4, 1842.*

I HAVE the honor of transmitting to your Lordship a copy of my despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador, relative to a communication made to me, by a high authority, respecting the ultimate intention of the Porte of nominating a Druse and a Christian Governor in Mount Lebanon.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

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Inclosure in No. 130.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Damascus, May 4, 1842.*

I HASTEN to acquaint your Excellency with a private communication, made to me by a high authority, that the ultimate intentions of the Porte are to appoint a Christian and a Druse Chief to the government of Lebanon, in case that the commissioner, Selim Bey, fails in his attempt to persuade the Maronites to accept a Turkish Pasha.

I am not prepared to state the advantages that would accrue to either party from such a measure; but I may be permitted respectfully to observe, that the division of the authority in a country constituted like Mount Lebanon, with the feelings that appear to predominate in the minds of its population, is

likely to lead to future contests for supremacy between them, and consequently to bloodshed and disorder.

It would appear that the Porte, anticipating the final opposition it will meet with in its object of substituting the authority of a Pasha for that of a Christian Prince, has materially changed both its plans and policy, and has adopted the resolution of weakening both parties by the appointment of two distinct authorities. By the creation of new interests, and consequently of fresh causes of contention, it hopes to produce a state of things which will enable it hereafter to renew its direct interference, and to assert with more plausibility that only the authority of a Turkish Pasha can unite all interests and maintain peace and order.

Although there is no reason to doubt that the Seraskier contemplated but a short time ago the disarmament of the Lebanites, and the removal of the arrested Druse Sheiks to Constantinople, I am now given to understand that he is hesitating in his own mind whether he should not leave them their arms and liberate the arrested Chiefs, after taking from them ostensible guarantees. This circumstance rather strengthens the conclusion, that far from wishing to deprive them of the means of doing themselves mutual injury, he intends not only to leave them in possession of those means, but to let loose besides among them individuals who will not fail to make use of them.

It is to be presumed that the Porte intends, by dividing the government of Lebanon, that each sect should reside under the more immediate authority of its respective chief: but this is scarcely practicable in a country where not only the population but the landed property is mixed. Another great difficulty, if not insurmountable, offers itself to the accomplishment of this plan: namely, the pretended feudal rights of the Druse and Christian Chiefs over some of the Moukatas or Districts, and of which both are very tenacious. For instance, the feudal lords of the district of Meten are Christians, and yet the peasants are mostly Druses; to the south, the lords of the manor are mostly Druses, but a great portion of the peasants are Christians. In both cases many of the peasants have landed property, and hold tenements which it cannot be expected they will either abandon or transfer.

These objections will always occur to the execution of such an intention on the part of the Porte; but it may be that the Porte, either unconscious of these serious difficulties, or unwilling to give them the consideration due to them, may decide upon the appointment of a Christian and a Druse authority: thus creating thereby fresh causes of trouble to itself, to the inhabitants, and matter for unpleasant discussion to others.

If it be the serious intention of the Porte to appoint two governors, the same policy will naturally lead it to separate the Mutualis from the rest, and appoint a third over them. The Chiefs of these people have already presented a memorial to the Seraskier relative to their old right of having a governor of their own; and the Pasha of Tripoli has also claimed the administration of the northern districts of Lebanon, which he pretends form a part of his Pashalic. In this manner, by the separation and subdivision of the Christians, the Porte will obtain its principal aim, the destruction of their influence and power, whereas, on the other hand, the advantages that will be gained by the Druses will be very considerable. But it may be that the Porte, in rearing a new power in the heart of Syria, is unconscious of its own inability to control it hereafter.

I am also credibly informed, that whatever may be the ostensible instructions given by the Porte to its new Commissioner, Selim Bey, he is destined to command the Albanian troops that are to operate in this country, for which his Albanian origin, and the consideration enjoyed by his family in Albania, qualify him perhaps in the estimation of the Porte for this special service.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

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No. 131.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, April 13, 1842.*

I HAVE the honor to state to your Lordship, that the Druse chiefs, with the exception of Sheik Hootoor Amad, who was left at Ibtedeen, were conveyed only on Saturday the 9th of April from Deir-el-Kammar to Sidon, under escort of Ali Pasha, Governor of Sidon, two battalions of Nizam, and a few cavalry. The Druse chiefs were mounted on mules, and bad horses; whether this circumstance is to be attributed to a wish to wound their pride, or to render their escape difficult, I know not.

It appears, that the Druses had retired from the heights round Ibtedeen previous to the departure of the chiefs, and their transport was effected without any hostile demonstration on the part of the Druses.

On the arrival of the escort at a little landing-place on this side of Sidon, the chiefs were embarked on board a Turkish steamer, in which they arrived here the same day at 5 o'clock p. m. At 3 o'clock a. m. on the 4th they were disembarked, and taken with a strong escort to an old turret of a house on the town-wall. Half a battalion of light troops is encamped about it. The kadi, and other sympathising Mussulmans, supply the Druses with good food.

The arrest, and the arrival here of the Chiefs caused displeasure amongst the Mahometans, who conceived that it was a triumph of Christian over Mussulman influence, for the Druses are considered as a sort of dissenters from Mahometanism, or at any rate as more Mahometans than Christians: for, whenever it suits the convenience of the Druses, they observe the religious forms and rites of the former, and frequent the mosques.

Mustapha Pasha informed M. d'Adeibourg, that the Druse chiefs were arrested on account of their insubordination, and his Excellency told me, that they were in arrest, but not prisoners, an odd distinction. He said, that the country was quite quiet, and the roads secure, and free of passage, and he shewed me a Turkish officer, who had just come the straight and difficult road from Deir-el-Kammar with only two attendants. He said, also, that he should very soon bring the country to a state, which would call for a letter from Her Majesty's Government to me expressive of their satisfaction at his, Mustapha Pasha's, conduct.

His Excellency said also, that the Christians would be indemnified, but, that it was a difficult matter, some of their demands being excessive. He said, that Emir Beshir El-Kassim charged 60,000 piastres for a cloak.

The interpreter of Mustapha Pasha informed me, that the Druses had been arrested, because Omar Pasha had found it impossible to do any thing with them; that when he told them to do any thing, they replied that their servants should do it; when, agreeably to Mustapha Pasha's directions, he ordered them to go to Beyrout, they replied, that their soldiers could go there. He said also, that two Vizirial letters had been received by Mustapha Pasha, one directing him to recover from the Druses the amount of loss sustained by the merchants under Russian protection, and another under French; the former being by far the most considerable sum, amounting, I think, he said, to 20,000 piastres.

The Druses did not obey the order given to them by Mustapha Pasha, as is detailed in my despatch of the 8th April, and it is stated that his Excellency upon this wrote to Omar Pasha to deceive them by a civil message from his part, and take them by stratagem.

The arrest of the chiefs is also supposed to have been caused by an imperative order from Constantinople to obtain from the Druse chiefs payment of the Emir Beshir's, and other Christian's losses, and in case of refusal, or a shew of determined opposition to arrest them unawares; for it is clear, that the Porte could not continue to disguise what was so well known in Syria, that the authority of Omar Pasha was null. Mustapha Pasha, his interpreter, and Omar Pasha now confirm this, and in so doing they confirm all that I had the honour to tell your Lordship, and which caused surprise to the Reis Effendi, because it was so different from the accounts of the functionaries of the Porte.

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The Porte saw that it was necessary to vindicate its authority, or confess to the Powers that her functionaries could not assert it against the Druses, and abandon her favourite project of Turkish rule in the Mountain.

The Porte and its officers here may have been disappointed, and irritated by what all, except themselves, saw was a delusion, the conversion of the Druses to Mahometanism, and their affectation of excessive liking for Turkish rule, and they may have learnt the secret wishes of several of the most influential chiefs for the Emir Emin.

The Druses in Deir-el-Kammar frequented the mosque, but when the Mollah told them, that before he could allow them to lay out a corpse in the mosque, they must burn their religious books, they declined to do so.

The statements of Mustapha Pasha, and of the Turkish authorities, with respect to the intractability, and insubordination of the Druses, entirely corroborate all my reports to your Lordship and confirm them.

That the Turkish authorities were obliged to have recourse to a trick in order to bring to subjection a powerful people, proves that they could not have effected their purpose by any other means. It may be said, that the absence of five persons could not have changed a dominant race into a subdued one, but it must be borne in mind, that the five prisoners are the hereditary and military leaders, and chiefs of the most feudal people in the world—that a Druse does nothing without the order or permission of his chief. This submission extends to their domestic relations, and the father of a family is as despotic as the chief of a clan. With these feelings of entire obedience, the Druses, in a moment of great strait, found themselves deprived of the rulers of their actions: but other causes increased their embarrassment.

First,—Omar Pasha threatened to take the lives of the prisoners, should the Druses offer resistance to his authority.

Secondly,—The Turkish Government in possession of the Coast, and of Ibtedeen, in addition to their own forces and resources, held in the leash 9000 impatient Christians, eager to be let loose on the Druses, and anxious to revenge their wrongs, indemnify themselves, and acquire plunder in their turn.

The Turkish authorities here do not give out that the arrest of the Druses is to be permanent; on the contrary they state, that they were merely brought here to answer some demands on them; nor is there mention, as yet, of their being sent to Constantinople.

Sheik Naaman Djinblat, and Sheik Mal-i-el-Deen, his father-in-law, and Chief of the Druse religion, are prisoners at Ibtedeen. Tahir Pasha, in the south, has made prisoners of ten or twelve Sheiks, and two of them, Omar Effendi, Sheik of the Haram, or Sacred Stone, at Jerusalem, and Mahmood Effendi Bash Katib, chief secretary of the Mollah at Jerusalem, have arrived here.

All of these persons, leading men in the Pashalic, were taken by stratagem: the relations and adherents of these persons threaten to occupy and intercept the road. I trust, however, that the country, both there and elsewhere, may remain tranquil.

The interpreter of Mustapha Pasha informs me, that Nejib Pasha had made prisoners of twenty Druse Chiefs, and that everything was tranquil and in good order in the Haouran.

The day before yesterday, summonses were sent to the leading Christians to assemble at Beyrout.

Everything is quiet at present. It is stated, that one of the Druse Chiefs attempted to escape the night before last, and that in consequence they are all now more closely watched.

Omar Pasha arrived last night.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, April 26, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that it came to my knowledge, that the Emir Beshir of Brumana, one of the Maronite Chiefs summoned here by Mustapha Pasha, had within a few days signed a petition in favour of the continuance of the rule of Omar Pasha, and against the assumption of it by a member of the House of Shehab, and the Emir, according to the practice now in fashion in this country, stated directly afterwards in confidence, that he had acted influenced by the fear of Mustapha Pasha.

Two other Christians, Greek Catholics, Emirs of the House of Mourad, made similar declarations.

In order to show your Lordships the degree of desire in this Emir for Turkish Rule, and the impulse which Mustapha Pasha considers it necessary to give to that desire, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a statement made by Lutfalla Fader, agent for the family of the Emir.

I felt that after the statement made by the Porte in its official memorandum of the 17th March last, it would be desirable—

First, to account for the difference of the reports of the servants of Her Majesty, and those of the Porte, for the Porte said “*Mais comme les notions que la Sublime Porte acquiert, soit directement, soit par l'intermédiaire des Missions, sur les Affaires de la Syrie, ne s'accordent pas les unes avec les autres, il a été jugé à propos de se procurer là-dessus de nouveaux renseignements.*”

Secondly, to endeavour by some legitimate means, to cause the true expression of the wishes of the inhabitants to be conveyed to the Porte.

Having conferred on this subject with M. d'Adelbourg, and M. Bourrée, the French Consul. (the Russian Consul was not here,) we solicited an interview with Mustapha Pasha, which took place.

M. d'Adelbourg was so very good as to act as interpreter, his perfect knowledge of Turkish, and his tact, made such assistance very valuable.

We requested that Selim Bey, the Porte's Commissioner, who had arrived the day before, should be present; the Seraskier agreed, but looking embarrassed, requested that we might first speak together alone. We instantly assented. We begged that all the attendants might withdraw, which they did.

The Foreign Agents said, that in a memorandum addressed by the Porte, on the 17th March, to the Foreign Representatives, she had said, as I have had the honour to state above; and that with reference to this, we were anxious, in consideration of the friendly relations subsisting betwixt the Porte and the Powers, to find out the cause of the difference of our reports, and if possible to assimilate them, and facilitate thereby materially the arrangement of those affairs in which the Porte and the Allied Powers were at present interested.

The Agents stated that they had reported that the late deplorable disturbances had been caused by the inaction of the Turkish Authorities, who were besides openly accused of inciting and assisting the Druses; that no property had as yet been restored to the Christians, nor had they been put in possession of the lands from which they had been expelled; that the petitions which had been sent in favour of Omar Pasha, and against a Christian Prince, to the Porte, were to be attributed to the fear felt by people so inferior to the Seraskier, of the dread of the displeasure of his Excellency, who had expressed himself strongly against Christian rule, especially that of the Shehabs, and vindictively against those who might be of a different opinion; in short that these petitions in no way expressed the real wishes of the Christian population of the Lebanon, and that although some Christian Emirs and Sheiks, who were employed, and others who hoped to be employed, might have voluntarily declared in favour of direct Turkish rule, yet that the great majority of the people in their hearts wish for a Christian Ruler, and that till the Chiefs of the Druses were arrested, that people were masters of the country.

The Seraskier replied, that the country was tranquil, that he attached all the blame of the late disturbances to the “*Anerie*” (Esh Shiklek), and miscon-

duct of Selim Pasha ; that the restoration of property was a most difficult matter, but that, in a short time, he intended to send a Commissioner through the Mountain, who would swear the Christians on the Gospel as to their losses, when proceedings would be taken to indemnify them ; that with respect to the lands, the people could go back, and occupy them ; that the petitions were not forced, and to prove this, he authorized us, so he said, to forbid the Christians to sign any petition against their will. His Excellency invited us to furnish him with a list of persons driven out of their houses, and deprived of their property, and did not deny, that they had not as yet been restored to their owners : thus bearing out our statements. He added, that he would, previously to the departure of the packet, show us his report to his Government, and invited us to do the same by him, to which we agreed.

He asked us whether, under a Christian Prince, the ex-Emir Beshir, the Mountain had been happy ; whether he had not treated its inhabitants cruelly, putting out the eyes of several persons, and committing other acts of tyranny ; and he said that the existence of Turkish rule would secure restitution of lands, and property, peace, and order in the Mountain, but that Christian rule would operate in a contrary sense.

We observed that the country was tranquil, but that we denied that there was contentment ; that the legitimate authority had suppressed the illegitimate power of the Druses, but that this new phase had only existed since the arrest of the Druse Sheiks on the 6th instant, which had created an entirely new epoch in the affairs of the Lebanon which we had not yet treated ; that we condemned the policy of the ex-Emir Beshir, but observed, that his misconduct was no guide for Christian Princes in general ; but that we could not lose sight of the fact, that it was only natural that a Christian people should like a Christian Prince ; that they should not like to lose a privilege so graciously accorded to them by the Sultan, and endeared to them still more by time and usage ; and that we conceived that our opinion as to the unbiassed state of feeling of the Christian population, was more in accordance with natural sense and human feeling than that of his Excellency. For one fact must convince the most inferior understanding : a Turkish Pasha, a Turkish Court of law, denies the admissibility of Christian evidence, and thus renders to the Christians unattainable, that which is considered by all men the greatest human blessing, impartial justice ; that when we advocated Christian rule in the Mountain, we of course never imagined for an instant that the same assistance would not be given by the Porte to the maintenance of the authority of a Christian Prince, as to that of a Turkish Pasha, an idea evidently uppermost in the mind of his Excellency, and which if put into execution, would speedily accomplish the wish of the Porte, the non-existence of Christian rule in the Lebanon, were its resumption accorded.

An important consideration now presents itself. It is clear that the Porte will not grant a Christian Ruler, unless she be coerced to do so. If she yield to the pressure of the Powers, she will do it in bitterness and vindictiveness of spirit, and extreme unwillingness ; and unless some sufficient guarantee be obtained, so thwart the measures of a Christian Prince, that he will succumb to disorder, which will have been promoted, nay, judging from the events of the last few months, very probably have been excited, by intrigues of the Turkish Authorities themselves.

The Christian Prince may require military aid. I have seen enough of Turkish officers to be able to predict the excuses which will be made for a tardy march, or no march at all. The plague is in the regiment, or in the place to which they are required to go. Beasts of burden cannot be found for the baggage and ammunition ; one-third of the regiment is in hospital ; and there is another excuse which is ever ready, and generally true, there is no money in the military chest.

The present tone and state of affairs leads me to think that the Porte and its representatives here, intend to do their best to preserve order in the Mountain, and make a modified restoration of property, provided they retain the direct rule of it, but if the contrary be the case, to let out the Druse Chiefs, or encourage the elements of disorder.

Mustapha Pasha's language and demeanour caused us to believe that he had not received pleasing intelligence by the Turkish steamer which arrived on the 24th instant. He said, " You must be right, for the Porte itself begins to think that your reports are true, and that mine are not so ;" he was a dif-



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ferent man from the one who, in January last, refused to forward the "Ardhil Mahdar" of the Christians for a Christian Prince of the house of Shehab, boldly declaring, that he was the Sultan's Plenipotentiary, and would do what he liked.

One avowal of the Seraskier caused extreme satisfaction to me, and I am sure that it will be agreeable to your Lordship. He did not dispute our statement, that the late troubles were to be attributed to the Turkish local Government here; he may be said to have ratified it, for he replied, that he imputed all the blame to Selim Pasha; now Selim Pasha was Seraskier, and the Sultan's chief authority in the districts where the civil war broke out and was carried on. Thus all my reasonings and statements have been proved by the Sultan's Plenipotentiary in Syria. Some future Pasha will probably confirm also to the foreign agents what we have said of his Excellency himself.

In my despatch of the 25th of March to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, I had the honour to say, with reference to the mission of Selim Bey, Commissioner of the Porte, that the object of his Government was merely to gain time by that measure; and I added, "for every day's delay in the arrangement of the affairs of the Mountain, strengthens the hands of the Turkish authorities, weakens the party, and damps the spirit of the Christians;" thus it has happened. The Turkish authorities have alternately threatened and cajoled till they have again induced the timid, and the corrupt,—alas! a very numerous class amongst this people,—to sign Mustapha's Pasha's petition in favour of Omar Pasha's, and against a Christian Prince's Government, and that, too, under the eyes of Selim Bey, who, even if he be honest, sees no outward signs of violence and intimidation, and only learns from the foreign agents, that the written wishes of the Christians are not their real ones. Not under the discipline of their clergy, who have kept entirely aloof since Mustapha Pasha's warning to them to abstain from worldly affairs, and uncertain as to the degree of influence which the Powers might think it right to exercise in their favour with the Porte, many of the Christians have sought to ward off the displeasure of those who are their rulers, and who, if they do not benefit, can at least make them more unfortunate than they are.

This state of affairs might be called a farce, did it not hold out such melancholy prospects for the future, and involve such grave interests. For what can be expected from a Government which is corrupt, from the lowest to the highest, of its functionaries, and whose sole act of vigour has been one of deception? If, when the Druse Chiefs so ill-treated the Christians at Deir-el-Karamar on the 14th February, and completely set the authority of Omar Pasha at defiance, although he had 4000 regular troops, and cannon, in a strong position under his orders; if, on that occasion, Omar Pasha had seized the two great malefactors, the Abunekeds, the authority of the Sultan would have been asserted in a legitimate manner, and all would have extolled such a proof of energetic justice, not only on account of its present, but also of its permanent effect; the inhabitants of the Lebanon would have respected the proof of superior strength given by Omar Pasha, but his inaction, his allowing 300 Christians to leave their homes and the seat of his power, because he could no longer protect them against the Druses, proved the superior power of the ruled over the ruler; and that Omar Pasha should have been reduced to the stratagem of entertaining the chiefs at dinner, showing them profuse civility, and then, when entirely helpless, off their guard, five men in the midst of a thousand, with loaded muskets levelled at them, he caused them to be seized, vituperating, instead of flattering, them; such conduct only proves the relative weakness and strength of the parties, and can never be cited as a proof of the goodness or of the stability of a Government; for an act which destroys the confidence of a powerful people, and can, moreover, never be repeated, must be considered a hazardous one.

I know that it is not fair to judge an Oriental policy by an European standard; but in the present instance the Porte has declared, that her rule in the Mountain is more likely to cause happiness, win the confidence and affections of the people, preserve order, and uphold justice, than a Christian Governor; a review, therefore, of the qualifications of the candidates is not illiberal.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.



Inclosure in No. 132.

*Statement of Intfulla Pader, Agent for the Family of the Emir Beshir of Brumana.*

GIBRAN-EL-AURA, the Arabic Secretary of Mustapha Pasha, wrote, a few weeks ago to Emir Beshir, Kaid Bey, of Brumana, urging him to come down to this town to see the Seraskier, and that it was for his good to come down immediately. Emir Beshir, therefore, by orders of the Pasha, came down eight days ago.

As soon as he arrived, Gibran-el-Aura called upon him, and the next day took him out walking, when he said, "You know, O Emir, that I wish you well in every respect; therefore, all my advice to you cannot but be for your good: the Seraskier wishes you to write a petition like this," and he (Gibran) handed him a copy of a petition, the nature of which is nearly as follows:--

"We, the undersigned, have formerly presented a petition to the Pasha for the Porte, that we are anxious that the Governor of the Lebanon should be such whom the Porte chooses, and that we may be entirely under the Porte's orders; we also have entreated that no one of the Shehab's family should govern us: and that we can by no means accede to have any of the Shehabs as a Governor: and also we have stated, and are ready now to state, that we have every reason to be pleased with Omar Pasha's government. He is administering justice, and the country is perfectly tranquil. And now we wish that the same Governor (Omar) shall continue, and we will never submit to have any of the Shehabs; and that if any petition had been sent formerly by the Chiefs of the Mountains to the Representatives of the Friendly Powers, that must be considered false."

Emir Beshir of Brumana was surprised to see this petition, and told Gibran-el-Aura, "How can we sign such a petition contrary to our wishes and interests?" Aura replied, "If you do not sign it you will bring upon yourself all mischief, and you will be treated as the other people in prison. This must be done, and no remedy. You must listen to what I tell you, otherwise you will repent. But if you would sign it, then I promise you the government of the districts between Maamilteen and Mudarige. O, Emir Beshir! do listen to what I tell you." In short, he (Gibran) then induced him to write the petition.

On the following day the Emirs were summoned by the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha. Emir Beshir of Brumana, Emir Murad, and Emir Seid Ahmet, waited upon him: but they were conducted to his Excellency's Hasnadar. The Hasnadar asked them to sign the petition; the Emir Beshir signed it. When Emir Murad delayed to annex his seal, the Haznadar looked angry, and said, "Do you not believe what we say? Give me this petition." Then Emir Murad got alarmed, and immediately sealed it; and, of course, the rest followed. Gibran-el-Aura told the Emirs to take care not to say anything. It was by this mode of proceeding that the petition was signed.

No. 133.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, April 28, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that Selim Bey, who was sent by the Porte for the purpose of ascertaining the real state of affairs in Syria, arrived here on the 24th instant.

Having told M. d'Adelbourg that I intended to visit him, we agreed to go to Selim Bey together.

M. d'Adelbourg was so good again as to act as interpreter. We told Selim Bey very much what we had told Mustapha Pasha, and, like his Excellency, he blamed Selim Pasha as the cause of the late disastrous events.

We stated to him, that the landed properties of the Catholics, taken by force, by the Druses, had not been restored, and we adduced the cases of the Emir

Melkem Shehab, the richest person in the Lebanon, whose entire property is almost in the hands of the Druses and Mutualis.

Secondly, of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim, whose landed property is still in the hands of the Druses ; we dwelt particularly on this case, because the principal culprit, who has driven out the people of the Emir from his land, and substituted his own, is a chief actor in the civil war, the Emir Emin Raslan, a Druse Chief, whom Omar Pasha, by his first act of authority, made Governor of the plain of Beyrout ; and because Mustapha Pasha has very lately, within three weeks, reconfirmed him in the Governorship, clothing him, investing him, as it is called, with a cloak, sword, and shawl.

Emir Emin Raslan ingratiated himself with Mustapha Pasha by presenting his Excellency with a horse, for which he gave 12,000 piastres, to raise which, he was compelled to pawn his wife's gold ornaments for the head, and another very fine colt, plundered by the Druses from the stable of the Emir Melkem Shehab, after the defeat of the Christians at Shoofaat, on the 5th of November. Emir Melkem told me, that he would not have taken 30,000 piastres for this colt. I may as well observe here that, the other day, Mustapha Pasha sent again horses, presents sent to him, twenty-eight in number, to Constantinople. I was not wrong, therefore, in my predictions, that part of the Christian plunder would find its way to Constantinople.

The positive fact as to the Emir Emin Raslan, made an impression on Selim Bey.

We then stated, that the Turkish authorities had favoured the Druses during the late disturbances ; that there was still a sympathy betwixt the Mahometans and the Druses, which did not exist betwixt the former and the Christians ; that in proof of it, the arrest of the Druse Chiefs had excited pain amongst the Mussulmans in Syria ; that the evidence of Turks, Druses, and Mutualis, was taken against Christians, whose testimony, on the other hand, against them, was not admitted ; that Nejib Pasha had, from the time he landed in Syria, excited a fanatical Mussulman, and anti-Christian feeling. Selim Bey said, " Why should he do so ? " " Because," we said, " there are bigoted Protestants, Catholics, and Mussulmans, and that his Excellency was a bigoted Mussulman." We added, that we regretted to say, that Mustapha Pasha had been accused of doing much the same ; that during his late journey, he had excited Mussulman fanaticism ; that the Christians who had signed the petition in favour of Omar Pasha, had done so through intimidation, or were employed, or hoped to be employed by the Turkish Government ; that Mustapha said, that he had not coerced them in this respect, but that he had expressed, through his subordinates, his decided opposition to a Christian Governor ; that threats had been held out by those subordinates to those who should support one ; and that all the influence of the person filling the post of the Sultan's Plenipotentiary, whose power, without limit, inspired proportionate awe, had been directed against the expression of the wishes of those who sincerely desired a Christian Prince ; that it was only natural, and that the contrary would be unnatural, that Christians should prefer a Christian to a Mahometan ruler ; that if Selim Bey had any doubts on this subject, we earnestly begged him to go through the mountain of the Kesrouan, and travel from town to town, and village to village, and desire the inhabitants to tell him the wishes of their hearts, as to who should be their ruler, without fear, and promising them that he would transmit the same to their Sultan. We said, that if he would do so, the answer would prove that we had represented the feelings of the people, but that Mustapha Pasha had not done so. Selim Bey replied, that the Turkish Government entirely disavowed the acts of Selim Pasha, during the late contest ; denied that there was any sympathy betwixt respectable Mussulmans and the Druses, although he admitted that there might be, on the part of the lower classes ; that good Mussulmans entirely repudiated the faith of the Druses, who worshipped calves and dogs ; that a Mussulman would eat a fowl cooked by a Christian, or a Jew, but not one dressed by a Druse ; that when Selim Pasha and the Kadi took the evidence of Druses and Mutualis, as Mahometans, they were quite wrong, but he allowed, that Christian evidence was not admissible against Mussulmans ; that Mustapha Pasha denied that he had excited fanaticism with respect to the feeling of the Christians ; as to a Christian or a Turkish Governor, he could say but little, as he had been only two days in the country.

Selim Bey said that, putting the Christians out of the question, he did not think that the Druses would ever accept a Christian Governor, and, he asked us

our opinion. We replied, that if the Druses were unbiassed by the fear of having to pay the indemnities ; if they were guaranteed from interference with their religion or feudal privileges; we thought that they would prefer a Christian to a Turkish Governor. Selim Bey said, that he did not agree with us.

He begged us to come to him whenever we wished to do so, but expressed the wish, that it should appear that our visit was not solicited by him. He smiled when M. d'Adelbourg told him that we had requested, that he might be present at our interview, but that he had not appeared.

It was evident that Selim Bey was a decided advocate of the policy of his Government—Turkish rule in the Lebanon ; but the impression entertained by M. d'Adelbourg and myself, of him, after the interview, was favourable.

With reference to the presents made to Mustapha Pasha, I am informed that Izzet Pasha, who is stated to be unfriendly to him, and other watchers of his conduct, have sent to Constantinople accounts of his venality in that respect; thus adding fresh proof, that however much it may suit the interests of the Turkish authorities to declaim against the correctness of the reports of the Foreign agents, when they inculcate the authorities, yet, in the end, Turks themselves confirm our reports ; thus Selim Bey and Mustapha Pasha confirm all I have said as to the misconduct of Selim Pasha, and yet one of the charges which I brought against his Excellency was no less a one than that he had encouraged subjects of the Sultan to make civil war on subjects of the Sultan.

Selim Pasha, a person of contracted intellect, and very unlikely to have taken an important line of conduct without due authority, could probably confirm another statement which I made, that Nejib Pasha, and the Porte, gave him secret instructions to act as he did.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

#### No. 134.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)*

My Lord,

Beyrout, May 2, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch of the 26th ultimo, that, as soon as it was bruited that the petition which I mention therein had received the signatures of certain Christian Emirs, and Sheiks, some members of the Maronite commonality drew up a petition addressed to the Sovereigns of Austria, France, and Great Britain, in which they state their sufferings from the Druses ; their complaints, that Mustapha Pasha, who had been sent three months ago by the Porte to settle affairs, had as yet done nothing to relieve them, in spite of his promises to do so, and the liberty which was left to his actions by the arrest of the Druse Chiefs ; that he had abolished the rule of their Princes of the House of Shehab ; that the Druses still continued to retain possession of their properties, and to take by force the legal deeds of tenure of others. The Petitioners then stated, that they saw no prospect of obtaining redress, that they were like sheep amongst wolves, that some of them were without food, others reduced to beggary, whilst others had remained amongst the Druses in a state of slavery ; and that as they saw no chance of their obtaining justice, they entreated the Sovereigns to intercede for them, that justice might be done to them, and that they might be governed by an Emir of the family of Shehab, which had ruled them for one hundred and fifty years, and knows their usages and rules ; and they stated that they could never enjoy security or repose under any other dominion.

They went on to say, that Mustapha Pasha had called to Beyrout the Christian Chiefs, and through his subordinates had ordered them to sign a petition in favour of Omar Pasha, and against the rule of the Shehabs ; and that his Excellency gave them to understand, that if they declined to act as he wished, that he would treat them as he had done the Druses, but that if they acceded to his request, he would give them the command of their districts ; in consequence of which some had signed the petition, and others unwilling to do so, had not come down from the Mountain.

A Maronite person of respectability, formerly an officer of the Emir

Beshir El-Kassim, requested M. d'Adelbourg, the French Consul, and myself to transmit to our respective Governments the petitions, but as we conceived, that such a step would entrench on the authority of the Porte, we declined to do so; but as the petitioners stated, that they were afraid of Mustapha Pasha; that they knew, that he would either imprison them, or cause them some harm, were they to request his Excellency to transmit their petition to the Sublime Porte; and as we felt, that they spoke the truth; we told them; that according to the Turkish Law, subjects of the Sultan were permitted to send an "Ardhil Mahdar," or general petition to the Sultan. They followed this course, and thus the legitimacy of the Sovereign was respected, and his subjects according to his law were enabled to make him acquainted with a reasonable wish, and a just complaint.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship, copy of the petition in question.

I have just learnt that the Sheiks begged Mustapha Pasha to give them robes of honour, but he declined to do so, saying, that such a proceeding would proclaim the motives of their conduct. In addition to the government which he had promised to the leading Emirs, he gave 10,000 piastres, about £90, to nine of the principal Sheiks; and thus, for about £9, these patriotic Sheiks have sold their consciences.

The two Emirs, Haidar and Beshir, have received promises of governments, and the former is to receive two villages, which will give him a revenue of 50,000 piastres a year; in reward for these promises, the first gave 2,000 piastres, and the second 43 zechins, to Mustapha Pasha's Arabic Secretary.

Most of these Sheiks are the same, whose venality I detailed in my despatch of the 23rd of July last; it is now clear, that I did not misjudge them. I stated in that despatch, that the services of eighteen of them could have been bought by Soliman Pasha for 18,000 piastres, to be used against their country, but they are cheaper now, for nine are bought for 10,000. The opinion also which I stated in the same despatch of the lower orders, I ventured to say, still holds good. They are more honest and less corrupt than their aristocracy.

The conduct which Mustapha Pasha is pursuing, will create intestine dissensions amongst the Maronites themselves, and will render persons naturally venal still more corrupt, whilst on the other hand it will increase the aversion felt towards the Turkish government; for bitterness and want of respect must be excited in the minds of those who see their future happiness placed in peril, and the wishes of a people misrepresented and stifled by the want of principle of the Sultan's Plenipotentiary, and of those who ought to give an example of better things, because this high functionary wishes to justify his policy; and a part of the upper classes are too timid to expose themselves to his displeasure, or too corrupt to resist the price which he offers them for their honour. Mustapha Pasha is pursuing the secret policy of the Porte; if he is, so powerful a motive of action goes hand in hand with the desire of vindicating his own character.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

P.S. In answer to our question to Selim Bey, whether he would forward any petition to the Sultan from the inhabitants of the Lebanon, he said, that he would speak to Mustapha Pasha about it, and we have heard nothing further from him on the subject.

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Inclosure in No. 134.

*Petition from the Christian Inhabitants of Mount Lebanon to the Sultan.*

(Translation.)

YOUR servants, and your Christian subjects of Mount Lebanon, have the honour to represent to your Majesty, that your Majesty is not ignorant of our continued obedience to the orders of your royal and happy Government, and conformably therewith, we have acted to the utmost of our ability, even to the shedding of our blood, and to the ruin of our country, against those who were

disobedient to the wish of your Majesty, and we shall still be actuated by the same sentiments to the last breath of our life.

It is known to your happy Majesty what happened to us at that period; the burning of our country, the pillage of our property, and our banishment from our homes; and, to increase the elevated justice and benignity towards your subjects, your royal and noble orders were given to their Excellencies, our superiors, the Grand Vizier, to repair to those parts, in order to restore repose, according to your true and royal promise to your Majesty's subjects and servants. We have, therefore, offered daily prayers to the Supreme God to establish the empire of your happy Majesty, by an increase of glory and victory throughout all ages.

And as we have no intercessor or aid, we have dared to present this our present petition to your noble person to show our condition; that we are hitherto separated from our homes; that we have no rest, nor have we received any part of our property, nor even laws have been able to obtain security; and since the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha, Governor of Mount Lebanon, a petition was made that the mountaineers are satisfied with his government, and that we desire none of the Emirs Shehab to govern us. And our Emirs and our Sheiks have been required to go to him, to sign it with their seals; and they have signed it contrary to their will. And since the elevated justice of your Majesty is known, a petition has been presented to the high threshold against the above, in which it is stated that there will be neither rest nor security for us, but only in the government of our Emirs Shehab, since they have been governors of the Mountain for many years, and know well its rules, and that no rest or security can be had under their Government of the Mountain, with the aid of your Majesty.

Now, when his Excellency Mustapha Pasha honoured Beyrout upon his return from Jerusalem, he called all the Chiefs of the Mountain to come to him, and ordered Omar Pasha to arrest the Druse Sheiks, who arrested five of them, and sent them to Beyrout, and also several of the Christian Chiefs, to whom, through the means of one of his servants, Impiegati, was given a copy of a petition, with an order to sign it with their seals; and in the said petition it was written, that the petition lately presented by all the Chiefs of the Mountain, Christian and Druses, who are obedient and submissive to the orders of the Sublime Porte, that they are content with the government of Omar Pasha, and that they do not desire that the family of the Shehab be governors over them; and if there has been any report of the Chief of the Mountain, or any of the representatives of the Powers, or others, that they were obliged to sign the petition, it is false; but they have signed it with their free will, and that they have no repose but in this.

We your servants and subjects having seen these things, prostrate ourselves at the Court of your Majesty, supplicating your pity, since we have no help but the gate of your justice, raising our united voices, men and women, great and small, praying and beseeching you, our lawful King, as we are your servants and subjects, to behold us with a benign and pitying eye, and save us from this misery, and give us rest, for we have no rest or security, nor can we have them but under the government of one of the Princes Shehab.

We renew our protestations and prayers at the gate of your pity, not to allow us to be drowned in the depth of injustice, and that the order of your Majesty be to name over us as Governor the Emir Emin Shehab, who is under your Majesty's eyes at Constantinople, as we can only have peace under his government; for he is experienced and wise in affairs, and has never done anything against the Government; nor is he partial, but knows every one, high and low, and we your servants all love him, because he loves the poor, and all his works are good; and in the time wherein he was Governor, in the first times, no one could complain of him in the least manner, but all his administration was just, and there is none amongst his equal to him in the administration and in serving your happy Majesty, and he is the wisest in the government of the Mountain. Without doubt, if you do not regard us with an eye of pity in restoring us our property, and having over us the said Prince, we will abandon all, and it is impossible that the honour of your Majesty should shut the door of pity in the face of those who prostrate themselves before your royal court. And we shall ever continue our prayer for the perpetuity of your empire through all ages, and offer our necks in obedience to your royal orders for ever.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, May 5, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that the Porte, having gained a temporary accession of strength by letting loose the Druses against the Christians, is now endeavouring to subdivide both of these nations into factions; aware of their unpopularity amongst the Christians, and that the arrest of the Druse Chiefs must set that people against them, they seek to create Turkish parties amongst these two sects by satisfying the self-interest of individuals.

Thus, amongst the Druses, they have endeavoured to gain over Sheik Hootoor Amad, who was taken with the other Chiefs, but released on leaving his son with Omar Pasha as a guarantee. Amad is as courageous, and nearly as good a military leader as Sheik Nasif. Omar Pasha has appointed this person, who was one of the chief plunderers and actors in the late troubles, to the important office of Kiaja, or his Lieutenant of Mount Lebanon, makes him wear the light Turkish dress: and what is more agreeable, were it well paid, assigns him a salary of 6,000 piastres a month. His Excellency has also formed a body of about 400 Druse horse, of which he has given the command to some of Amad's relations, and to some small Sheiks, Hemadi, dependants of the Djinblat family. On the other hand, he has tried the same experiment amongst the Christians: he has promised to give them the command of districts which they held in feudal times.

I do not think that any of these people would stand by him in the hour of need; but for the present these measures, so zealously seconded by the purse and influence of Mustapha Pasha, and far above all these, by the arrest of the Druse Chiefs, have produced an effect favourable to the power and policy of the Turks, which they exercise with effect against the return to power of a Christian Prince.

If the Druses had remained true to their promise to the Turks to reject Christian, and to accept no other than Ottoman rule, the chances in favour of an Emir of the House of Shehab would have been slight; but the leading Druses, emerging from their false position with the Turk, having stated their wishes to be governed conjointly with the Christians by the Emir Emin, as stated in my despatch of the 25th of February last, the Porte must probably have yielded to the nearly unanimous desire of the mountaineers, supported by that of the Powers: but the arrest of the Druses, very likely determined on account of their defection, changed the state of affairs. Sheik Hussein Talhook and Naaman Bey, the chief supporters of the Christian Emir, are in prison: the moral union therefore betwixt the Druses and Christians in favour of a Christian Prince is, for the present, at an end, more especially as matters more interesting to the Druses occupy their attention, such as the indemnities, the restoration of land, the disarmament, and the conscription.

It lay, then, with the Christians to honestly and fearlessly express their opinion in favour of the rule of their co-religionists: but thirty-four Sheiks have already yielded to intimidation and corruption: many more may yet do so.

The delay and the corrupt conduct of Mustapha Pasha, and the venality and pusillanimity of several of the Christian aristocracy, have temporarily weakened the position of the Christian party.

On the other hand, causes not as yet in existence may, if they reach it, operate in favour of a Christian Prince, for a power is coming into action which was before merged in another power.—I mean the lower order of the Maronites. Disgusted with the pusillanimity and venality of their Emirs and Sheiks during the late disturbances, and in the negotiations with respect to their Government, which so materially affect their happiness, they have done what they never did before; they have declared their wishes not only not through their aristocracy, but they have done so in opposition to them, reproving and calling them, moreover, to account for their misconduct. Now this manifestation, particularly if punishment follows on reproof, may prevent further defection of waverers amongst the higher orders.



It must be remembered also, that a Christian Emir would have the united support of a powerful party, which has been set aside, but must not be overlooked, the clergy, who, besides their great influence, are well supplied with funds; for M. d'Adelbourg still continues to receive large sums of money for the Maronite people, all of which, according to his instructions, he places at the disposal of the Maronite Patriarch.

But another event which may come to pass would render still stronger the chances in favour of a Christian Prince; an union of the Druses and Christians based on mutual advantages and concessions. The Druses frightened by the projected disarmament, and the conscription probably following on it, have proposed to the Christians to unite with them, risking all, even the lives of their Chiefs, rather than submit; and they have offered to restore to the Christians as much of their property as they have; they state besides their readiness to give back the arms which they took from the Christians, and moreover to support a Christian Prince of the House of Shehab. It is not known whether the Druses, who have taken service with the Turks, are parties to this offer; but it is not probable that they would side with the Turks against a general movement of their countrymen. If the Christians accept the proposals of the Druses, which were carried to the Kesrouan, the Turks must either give up their projected plan of a disarmament, or meet in hostile encounter the Druses and Christians. If such an event does take place, it will be attributable entirely to Mustapha Pasha, who stifled the legitimate wishes of the Christians, forcing them, it may be said, on the question of a Christian Prince for their ruler, and then demanded their arms when he had just done his best to cut off all hope of good government, and given such signal proof of the corruption of his own.

I do not think that the Christians, faint-hearted and disunited as they have shown themselves, will unite as a body with the Druses to resist the disarmament.

The Christians of the different sects have been directed to appear before their Bishops, and make oath on the gospel to their losses. Omar Pasha treats with consideration the Christians who come to him, and has in several instances restored their property to them.

The chief object of Mustapha Pasha appears to be, to present the country in a state of repose and order to his Government and the Foreign Agents, and thus enable the Porte to ask the Foreign Legations, "What do you wish? will it not be impolitic to run the chance of disturbing, by a change of Government the present tranquillity in the Lebanon? the perturbbers of order have been seized, The property will be restored to its rightful owners. What more can you require? Could a Christian Prince do more—would he do as much?"

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

P.S. The operation of the disarmament has not yet been commenced.

No. 136.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, May 8, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of my despatch of the 25th March to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure in No. 136.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, March 25, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 15th instant, in which you are pleased to inform me, "that a person of confidence is to be sent down to Syria in order to confer with Mustapha Pasha



in the name of the Porte, and after comparing notes, and obtaining intelligence on the spot, to return hither with the means of forming a conclusive, and, as it is hoped, a satisfactory arrangement after communication with the Representatives of the Five Powers."

I have the honour to say, with reference to this communication with which your Excellency has honoured me, that you may reckon with perfect confidence on the truth of my reports, but I very much fear that the same reliance cannot be placed on the correctness of the information of the person of confidence who is to be sent to this country; not that I am so illiberal or so unfair as to prejudice a person whom I know not, and who probably may be as estimable as Eshref Effendi, who was lately sent to Alexandria on a secret mission, but I regret to say, that I have a very unfavourable opinion of Mustapha Pasha, which I before have expressed. He is compromised and implicated in every way. The Christians accuse him of having received a bribe of 2,500 purses from the Druses, and his Secretary 500; I confess that I believe the truth of the charge. He is, besides, a vain man; both of these circumstances will weigh strongly with him, in binding him to use all the great influence, and the means which he possesses as the Sultan's Plenipotentiary, to convey to the mind of the Envoy, that he has represented the truth to his Government, and that he has increased the authority of the Sultan, and established it on a firm, and not as others and myself represent it, a false and visionary and crumbling basis.

Mustapha Pasha states, probably, that the country is quiet, and as Omar Pasha stated in the petition which he drew up in his own favour, "that everybody enjoys peace and justice, and is delighted with his Government;" but what is the cause of this peace and this tranquillity? that the spirit of the Christians is extinguished, as the Maronite Patriarch said to M. d'Adelbourg, when that gentleman represented to his Eminence the necessity of inculcating submission and peace to the Christians. "It is unnecessary, Sir; the Christian community is dead, there is no more breath in it."

When the respectable inhabitants showed disinclination, it was nothing more, at Deir-el-Kammar to do the service hitherto performed by their servants, to clear the streets by order of the Druse Chiefs, they were treated like slaves, beaten with thick sticks and flats of the sworn till numbers of them were laid senseless on the ground.

Your Excellency can hardly imagine the dread which the inhabitants of Syria entertain of Turkish Authorities, and which late events have increased beyond measure. The Hatti-Sheriff is a dead letter; the state of affairs which I have detailed above, and the fatal punishment which Selim Pasha inflicted on a Christian, and the severe ones which he has ministered to others, without any form of trial, have struck terror into the inhabitants of the towns and places where the Turkish Authority is firmly established; and it is such, that I am persuaded, that if Mustapha Pasha to-morrow visited the Christian part of Lebanon, and caused a petition or statement, containing excessive praise of his justice and impartiality toward the Christians, and of his Government in general, to be circulated for signatures, that nearly all the inhabitants thus solicited who did not hide themselves, high and low, would sign it, although these very same persons are those who stated over and over again to the Consuls, that the Turkish policy and its operation on them has made life a burthen to them, and although, whilst they are actually signing the petition, they are forming the resolution to baffle its object by stating to the Foreign Agents that they signed it through intimidation, but that they in their hearts disavow what fear of retribution has made them sign, and that their real sentiments are those which they have, unintimidated and unawed, expressed to them, the Foreign Agents. This faint-heartedness, this misprision of truth, is lamentable, but it is part and parcel of the Arab character, and such as it is, it renders the position of Foreign Agents in this country, already sufficiently difficult, still more embarrassing: for they represent a bad state of affairs, and the Pasha, who is inculpated, defends himself by sending to the Porte a statement signed by the very persons who have been represented as sufferers, which declares that they are perfectly happy and well governed, and that nothing would grieve them more than to change their Pasha. This custom of getting up petitions by the Pashas in their own favour, when they are inculpated, is of constant occurrence in Syria. Nejib Pasha has practised it; Omar Pasha the same; and Selim Pasha about a month ago also.

His Excellency, who within a few months had caused one Christian to be

killed, some to be grievously punished by the bastinadoes, and another to be tortured, obtained a statement from many of the Christians of Beyrout laudatory of him, although in private these persons spoke of him as a monster, tyrant, &c. &c.

For the reasons which I have had the honour to state, I fear that the mission of the confidential Envoy will throw no light on the real state of affairs in Syria; I am afraid, on the contrary—I say it with the deepest deference—that it will produce embarrassment, because I foresee that the report of this person will screen Mustapha Pasha, and throw discredit on the reports of the Foreign Agents.

But the Porte may say, We set aside the state of the country, we desire to know the feelings and wishes of all the sects as to a Governor of the Lebanon. The Greek Catholics, Maronites, it is true, wish for a Christian Prince, but do the Druses, and the Greek Melkites do so? Here again the Turkish Envoy would meet with great difficulties, for were he ever so sincere in his desire to ascertain the truth, encumbered as he would be by the presence of Mustapha Pasha and his influence, he could not do so.

I have already had the honour to bring to the notice of your Excellency the state of feeling of the Druses as to the Turkish authorities. I know beforehand what the answer of this people will be when the Turkish Envoy asks them whether they desire a Christian Governor or a Pasha; they will unanimously say a Pasha, probably they cannot well say anything else to the Turkish Envoy, influenced and accompanied as he will be; although the Druse, Naaman Djiblat, and Sheik Hussein Talhook, have so strongly expressed themselves in private against the Turkish rule.

To give your Excellency an idea of the feeling of this people, the Emir Emin Raslan, a Druse, who is said to have become a Mussulman, who was agent for the Turks with the Druses, whom they made three months ago Governor of the plain of Beyrout, and whom they consider as their main stay, said yesterday, after the arrival of the Austrian steamer, to the Emir Emin's agent, "Is the Emir Emin coming back to govern the mountains? he will not, unless the Druses ask for him; if he will give me a promise in writing that he will on his return retain me in the possession of my Governorship, I will get a petition from the Druses that he, the Emir Emin, be appointed Governor of the Mountain;" and yet the Turks are convinced that the Druses in general, and this person in particular, are favourable to their rule.

After the secret understanding which has taken place betwixt the Druses and the Turkish authorities, of course the Porte is in a false position with regard to the Five Powers, to the Christians, and to the Druses, for she cannot avow her position as regards that people.

1st. She cannot say to the Powers we wished to strengthen our hands against the Syrian Catholics, and therefore we let loose the Druses, their hereditary enemies, against them; and we must, therefore, in recompense for this illegitimate assistance, give our allies an illegitimate reward, the lands and plunder.

2nd. She will not think it prudent to say the above to the Syrian Catholics, nor that she wished to punish them for their insubordination, and their insolent demeanour and petition to them last year on the subject of the taxation.

3rd. The Porte will not venture to say to the Druses what some, if not all of the Powers may require, Pay the indemnities, and restore the land you have unjustly taken from the Christians; and still less will she be able to say what all the Powers will probably unite in requiring from her, that the Christians should be placed on an equal footing with the Druses; that the Druse chiefs should not treat them as serfs, which most of them say that the Turkish authorities have permitted them, and which they state, moreover, that they have the right, to do.

The Porte, therefore, I have proved, or I fancy that I have proved, is in a false position as regards the Powers, the Christians, and the Druses, and yet she is making extraordinary efforts to prove that she is not so,—she has, and, as I foresaw, will continue to use all the means which parties do use who endeavour obstinately to enjoy the advantages of a policy which they cannot avow, but which is known, and at the same time to stand well with those who exercise influential power over them.

Therefore, the Turkish Envoy when he comes here, aware of the position of his Government, even if he does not approve all the actions of Mustapha Pasha, must, as a clever servant of the Porte, conceal the real and important

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state of affairs; in order to protect and save his Government, he must make a report which will essentially differ from the reports of the foreign agents; and as the Porte knows this must be the case, I cannot help thinking sincerely, I say it with the utmost respect, that she has only made an offer of sending an Envoy for the purpose of gaining time, of which she knows the immense value as regards the success of her policy; for every day's delay in the arrangement of the affairs of the Mountain strengthens the hands of the Turkish authorities, and weakens the party, and damps the spirits of the Christian cause, and the Druses who are anxious to join it; for the delay convinces these parties that what the Turks give out is true, that the Powers are not united or determined as to the policy of effectively influencing the Porte to replace affairs in the Lebanon on their original footing. In the mean time the Turkish authorities neglect no means for inspiring awe and subserviency to their Government.

The troops are constantly exercised, the Pashas excite the Mussalman zeal by statements of meditated attacks on their sect and their faith; the arrival of Albanians, who are considered always as executors of punishment on a disobedient people is announced; reports which are never too absurd to be entirely disbelieved by the excitable people, are circulated by agents; the last I heard was, that the Turks had defeated and burnt the English and French fleets; such a statement would be laughed at in any other country, but in this it produces a certain effect.

If, then, the Turks are enabled to obtain a delay in the arrangements of the government of the Mountain only for a month, they will have gained a great deal. The wavering, the timid, and the seekers of employment,—these three classes, constitute the influential majority of the Lebanon,—attracted by office and reward, intimidated by the vigour of language and action, and the coercive measures adopted without any check by the Government, and placing no confidence in the long-delayed and uncertain help held out in the reserved and cautious language of the foreign agents, come into the views of their own Government, which has given such evidence of its strength and firmness. They will probably make unreserved submission to the wishes of the Turkish Envoy and Mustapha Pasha, who by this time has acquired a pretty correct knowledge of the price of a great many of the influential inhabitants of the Lebanon, and who will spare no means to further the policy of his own Government, and at the same time his own interests.

I am indeed grieved to hear of the destination of the Albanians: the people in this dread their approach, of which they have heard, on account of their resolution, their cruelties, and their want of discipline, all of which they have experienced, and they have the conviction that because they are mountaineers, they will be employed, as they were before, in the Mountain. There the Albanians' own officers confess that they cannot control them. I foresee that soon after their arrival, constant reports will be made by the foreign agents of suffering caused by their excesses, and of the entreaties of the inhabitants that they may be removed. Even, however, if this should occur, the Porte will in the mean time have gained her object,—the intimidation of the inhabitants who might physically as well as morally have been inclined to act against her; and moreover she will have created the conviction in the minds of the Syrians, so vitally important to the success of her policy, that she has carried her point in spite of the Powers.

I venture to crave your Excellency's indulgence for having wearied you with this long detail, but I am most anxious, as your subordinate, to submit to you my opinions, the result of my experience in this country, in order that you may make use of such as you deem fit, and reject such as are useless.

I may, as any body might be, have been wrong in trifling detail, although it has always been my aim rather to under than over state facts. I know, however, that I have always represented the true spirit and bearing of affairs in this country, because I have stated facts, and founded and guided my frail opinion by those facts. What I have said, my colleagues have in many respects, I believe, said also, but I have been a far longer time than any of them, except M. Basili, in Syria. That my details have not been pleasing, and should have drawn on me the enmity of the Turkish authorities, and of others, both here, and at Constantinople, I can perfectly understand. I regret it; it must be painful to any man to be the object of malevolence, or intrigue; but I should feel far greater regret if I could never pardon myself, if fear of the Turkish func-

tionaries or any person, had induced me to withhold one fact, which it was my duty to submit to your Excellency, or to Her Majesty's Government.

The Porte knows probably the opinion which I have expressed to my Superiors of their policy, and of the conduct of her officers in this country; it is then in the nature of things, that I must be an object of aversion to both the Porte and her officers.

No. 137.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, May 29, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of my despatch of the 9th of May, to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning.

Inclosure 1 in No. 137.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Beyrout, May 9, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency, that the petition of the Maronite Emirs and Sheiks to the Porte, which was sent off on the 7th instant, by the Turkish steamer "Tahiri Bahri," to Constantinople, by the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, and which purports to represent the feelings and wishes of the Maronite people as to a Governor of the Lebanon, in no way whatever conveys the real wishes of that sect.

It is immaterial how many signatures are attached to the petition they may be fifty, seventy, a hundred, or more, but they have all been obtained by corruption, intimidation, and promises, which it is believed cannot be fulfilled. The document in question cannot be called the petition of those who signed it, for it was not their prayer, it did not emanate from them, but it emanated from Mustapha Pasha, and was drawn up by Gibran Aura, his Arabic Secretary, by his Excellency's orders; it represents his wishes, the Porte's wishes; and to impart to it the character of a petition from the Maronite people, the same Gibran Aura, by his Excellency's directions, has given bribes to several timid and unprincipled men, who, influenced as I have stated, signed the petition composed by the Seraskier; but, strange to say, even several of these men, in answer to the question from the members of the Maronite lower orders, as to the right, which they had assumed to speak in the name of, or to style themselves the agents of the Maronite people, answered that they had no right so to call themselves, or to dispose of the will of a single individual; and they go on to make an avowal fatal to the character of the petition which they had signed in favour of Omar Pasha, they confess that the petition was sent to them by a messenger of the Seraskier, that they signed it by order.

Your Excellency will have learnt the description of intimidation which was used to the Emir Beshir of Brumana, who, with the Emir Haidar, are the main stays of the petition. The signature of the latter was obtained by the promise of a firman giving him two villages in the Koura, with 50,000 piastres a-year. The signatures of the two members of the house of Shehab by the restitution of property of which they had been deprived for thirty-five years. I could go through the list of the persons who signed the petition, and point out similar inducements throughout. The Seraskier grounds his whole case on the signatures of the Emirs and Sheiks, who have signed his petition; and many of these very men declare in writing, sealed by their seals, that they do not speak for any one but themselves, and that even they signed the petition by order.

Besides the arrest of the Druses, continually held out as a warning to the Emirs and Sheiks as likely to be their fate, did they show any symptoms of not obeying the expressed and well-known wishes of the Seraskier; besides the

dread felt by all Arabs, born and bred in slavish fear, of the authorities of the Sultan's Plenipotentiary, there are other causes which perplexed and bewildered them, and made them fear to offend a man, who, report said, might be their Governor-General.

First.—Nearly two thousand Albanians have arrived, more ill-disciplined, more lawless, than these barbarians generally are; it has been whispered through the Mountain, no doubt with intent, that these pests are to be quartered in the Christian villages, because the Christians have shown symptoms of a feeling not in accordance with the wishes of the authorities as to the government of the Mountain, that is, because they are so culpable as to prefer a co-religionist and Christian as their Prince, to a Turk; not a singular sentiment at any time, still less so, when the Sultan's Plenipotentiary and his subordinates have done their best to excite Mussulman fanaticism against Christians. Certainly, many of the Maronites do not show that moral courage that men ought to do, and many of them have proved themselves spiritless and venal; but in charity we ought to transpose ourselves into their situation, alone, helpless, with their wives and children in remote villages with the belief, in their minds, that their property will be plundered, and women violated. Already, the Vice-Consul at Sidon has reported to me that the Albanians, lately landed there, have violated several women.

In Beyrout, yesterday, the Bishops of the different sects warned their parishioners not to allow their wives and daughters to go into the streets on account of the excesses committed by the Albanians, and a few weeks ago one of these men walked into a house, announced to a man that he intended to violate his wife, and actually did so, whilst the husband had gone for assistance.

Second.—The foreign Consuls have observed on all occasions a good faith, which may be called chivalrous, towards the Porte, when passing events are considered; they have assured the mountaineers over and over again that there will be no armed intervention in their favour; they have ever enjoined loyalty and patience.

Third.—The delay, which has taken place in the settlement of the question, and the uncertainty of the result, have made the Sheiks, at the expense of their honour and virtue, anxious to propitiate the Sultan's Plenipotentiary, who having arrested the Druse Chiefs, might, as given out, arrest them, did they express their wishes as at variance with those of the authorities, and who, more than all, can fill their villages with Albanians.

In confidence, I have the honour to tell your Excellency, that Omar Pasha announced this punishment of Christian obstinacy to a person.

It is my duty to inform your Excellency, that the mission of Selim Bey has not been of the slightest use, as far as regards an acquirement of information of the wishes of the people; on the contrary, the machinations of interested persons, will probably have given him false opinions of them.

On the 7th instant the day of the departure of Ali Bey, the Haznadar of the Seraskier, with the petition to Constantinople, a farce, for I can call it nothing else, was got up in the Seraskier's tent. A number of the Emirs and Sheiks who had signed the petition were directed to assemble. Izzet Pasha, the Defterdar, Selim Bey, the Commissioner, and other functionaries were present. The Chiefs were asked by Mustapha Pasha, whether they had signed the petition voluntarily, whether any intimidation, or inducement had been held out; they answered "No;" they were then asked whether they would go to Constantinople and say the same to the Porte, were they required. They said that they would, with all the expressions of servility which mark Arab manners. To give a better effect, the Sheiks were directed to bring their servants with them, and Selim Bey, whose tent is close behind that of the Seraskier, and who has never stirred from Beyrout, was probably induced to think that he was witnessing a sort of popular festival, the ebullition of a nation's joy, whilst, in reality, the proceedings which had brought about the scene, had caused a people's mourning.

Already the other Sheiks and the Maronite people have got up counter petitions, and signed them; and the unprincipled conduct of those Emirs and Sheiks, who have affixed their names to the petition of the Seraskier has excited strong indignation and bitter feelings; two deputies were actually to have been sent off in the "Emmetje," which sailed on the 8th instant, to go by

Alexandria to Constantinople, and there expose their grievances. M. d'Adelbourg and myself were surprised at this act of energy on their part, which was quite voluntary.

Anxious for the welfare of the Ottoman Empire, I submit to your Excellency my very humble opinion, that Mustapha Pasha is pursuing a dangerous policy; he may stifle for a time the wishes of the Christians, but in their despair they will seek for aid where dangerous sympathies exist, or accept that alliance, which policy leads the Druses to offer to them.

Under all the circumstances of the case, and after mature reflection, I have the honour to state to your Excellency, that I fear that so decided has been the hostility which Mustapha and Omar Pashas have expressed towards those who signed the Ardhil Mahdar in January last, in favour of an Emir of the House of Shehab, or who might do so again, that I do not think, that the Maronite people will ever make known to them their sentiments respecting their future ruler, as matters stand at present, and I am convinced, that the only mode by which confidence could be imparted to them, would be by the issue of a firman to Mustapha Pasha to receive all petitions from the inhabitants of the Lebanon, without remark or expression of anger, with directions to him, to transmit the same without delay to Constantinople. I venture further to suggest, that it would be desirable that this Firman should be read in the churches, and that a copy should be sent to the foreign Consuls; that is, supposing that the Porte really wishes to hear a true expression of feeling from its Christian subjects of the Lebanon.

I have the honour to observe that the whole of the clergy, whose wishes ought to be consulted, are in favour of an Emir of the Shehabs.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 138.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, May 29, 1842*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that I lately made a visit to Damascus for the purpose of observing the state of the country, and presenting my Vizirial letter to Ahmet Pasha, whose succession to Nejib Pasha afforded a favourable opportunity for so doing.

I had no escort, and found the Meten, Valley of the Bekaa, Anti-Lebanon, quite quiet.

The Greek Catholic Bishop of Baalbeck complained of oppression of the Christians by the Mutualis, he adduced instances of forced labour and exaction, but no very grave facts. There is, however, a general feeling of mistrust on the part of the Christians towards the Mahometans, and the former have left in many instances the villages and sought the security of the towns; thus in Baalbeck, the population consisting formerly of 700 Christian families is now reduced to twenty.

I heard a curious proof of the fanatical feeling produced by Nejib and Mustapha Pashas. The Emir Hangiar Harfoush, of Baalbeck, a Mutuali Chief, whose family have been Lords of Baalbeck for 500 years, whose life was saved by the intercession of some Christians at Gaza, and who had in consequence been a good friend to them, having saved Zahlé by his well-timed assistance, has now discharged all his Christian servants and secretary, and become as violent against, as he was previously well-disposed towards them. Nejib Pasha made him Mutsellim.

In Damascus, the religious feeling is very strong; tradesmen read the Koran aloud in their shops; in Beyrout only one person says the prayers for a short time in each mosque, in Damascus three or four for the greater part of the night, and the very demeanor and appearance of the inhabitants gives the idea of a restless fanaticism. The women, who up to Nejib Pasha's time frequented the bazaars with their faces uncovered, by his Excellency's order no longer do so; on the other hand, we, as all Franks, rode through the bazaars at all hours without attendants, which would have been impracticable twelve years ago.



M. Beaudin, the French Counciller, who has been thirty years in Damascus, told me that he dated the intolerance of the Mahometans from the revolt, and subsequent cession of the Morea, an event most painful to Mussulman pride; and that the bitterness of feeling consequent on it had been much increased by Ibrahim Pasha's liberality towards Christians; Nejib Pasha's fanaticism having of course developed the feelings.

I do not think that there will be an outbreak of Mussulman fanaticism in Damascus, unless some untoward accident were to call one forth.

Nejib Pasha, who is most unwilling to depart for Bagdad, despatched, according to the fashion of the day, a petition from the inhabitants to the Porte that he might be retained; this was followed by a counter one on the part of Ahmed Pasha.

Nejib Pasha, with the view of proving the inferiority of Ahmed Pasha's government to his own, has tried an expedient for inciting the Mussulman to fall on the Christian population, which was foiled by Mr. Wood.

I presented my Vizirial letter to Ahmed Pasha, who made offers of good will. He has given proof of vigour and determination to repress insubordination, and for these reasons would be a good successor to Nejib Pasha.

The Jews of Damascus wished to send a numerous deputation of Rabbis and other persons to visit me, but I declined, assuring them of friendly feelings, as I thought anything tending to excitement had better be avoided.

There was a general complaint even amongst the Mussulmans of Damascus of the great venality, and non-efficiency of the Government.

At Hamana the bells of two Maronite churches, taken down by the Druses, had not been put up again.

Generally speaking, I observed during my journey amongst the Christians a strong feeling of dislike and mistrust towards the Turkish Government, and amongst the Mussulmans an entire want of respect and confidence.

#### No. 139.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, June 5, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to say, that about five weeks ago, the Emir Abdallah Shehab made an application to me to be allowed to come on board one of Her Majesty's ships of war, on account of the dread which he entertained of injury to himself from the Turkish Authorities, by reason of his supposed attachment to the dynasty of the Shehabs.

As, however, I did not consider the Emir adduced sufficient reasons, I advised him to remain quietly at home, making himself as little conspicuous as possible in political affairs.

During my absence in Damascus, he renewed his application to Mr. Moore, in consequence of having been sent for to Beyrout by the Seraskier to answer political charges. Mr. Moore advised him to come down, leaving him at the same time to act according to his own judgment. The result was, the Emir came down.

On the 3rd instant, the application was renewed to Mr. Moore, who reported the same to me: this third request was made in consequence of two documents, which had been presented to him for signature by Gibran Aura, the secretary of the Seraskier, which documents were drawn up by him, Aura, in his own hand-writing, which the Emir was directed to copy with his own hand, sign, and seal, and forward the same as an act of his own free will to the Seraskier.

The Emir Abdallah stated that in one of these documents (No. 1), as indeed is clear, he is required to state that which is false, and, therefore, repugnant to his conscience and his sense of honour, from the beginning to the end; and that in No. 2, he is required to make a statement, which involves both his honour and his life; and I leave it to your Lordship's superior judgment to decide whether the Emir does not speak the truth, when he is called on to state, "That since this happy Government (the Turkish) has honoured these countries, he has not in any way mixed in the slightest degree in politi-



cal affairs, or in anything whatever of that nature. That he never assisted at any meeting, public or private, and that he had never interrogated anybody, or been interrogated by anybody on such questions."

I venture to represent to your Lordship, that there is not a man in the Lebanon, from fifteen years upwards, who could make such a declaration with truth.

How, indeed, can it be otherwise, since, for the last five months the Lebanon has been the scene of one uninterrupted course of political proceedings, which have been sanctioned by the Porte; for meeting after meeting has been convoked by the Sultan's Plenipotentiary, to consider and deliberate on a political event, no less a one than the government of the Mountain.

And so much were the people involved in and connected with this political event, that he has submitted to them petition after petition on that subject for their signature, declaring moreover, time after time, to the foreign agents, that the people had his permission to express their opinions to the Porte, as to who should be their Governor, and moreover inviting the foreign agents to tell the people in his name that they need not sign any petition in opposition to their wishes; and yet he calls on this person, the third, if not the second, richest man in the Lebanon, and, as he himself says, the nearest relation of the ex-Emir Beshir, to say, "that he has not in any way whatever mixed in politics, and that if he has given the slightest countenance to political fermentation, he will be subjected to the severest penalty without any pardon."

There is not, my Lord, an European official person, or otherwise, who will not testify that the translation of the word fermentation, or excitement, means no more nor less than the expression of the wish of the Christian Lebanites to be ruled by a Christian Prince.

Therefore, this second paper may be called a sentence of death imposed on the Emir Abdallah by himself, for he was repeatedly informed by Gibran Aura, that he had proof that he, the Emir, had been guilty of fermentation or excitement.

I have so often had the honour to state the unprincipled manner in which Mustapha Pasha has misrepresented the wish of the people of the Lebanon, that the sight of the original of the very singular document (No. 1), caused me no surprise; it confirmed all I have said, and is a most important one, as there is evidence to prove that both it and No. 2 are in the hand-writing of Gibran Aura.

It appears that the chief motive for accusing the Emir Abdallah was to extract money from him, he having the most ready money of any person in the Mountain; therefore, having probably expressed his opinions, and exerted himself in obtaining petitions in favour of his relatives, the Shehabs, the Turkish authorities hoped to put an end to the exertion of his influence in this respect, and at the same time to extract a considerable sum of money from him. To effect this, as the Prince states upon oath, the Emir Beshir of Brumana is sent to him by Gibran Aura, to state that if he will pay a sum of 10,000 piastres as a present, his political agitation will be forgotten; if not, he will be accused of sedition, and liable to its penalty, which by the Turkish law may be death.

But the Prince, who is as fond of money as the Seraskier, declined to do so, on which followed the order to come to Beyrout, there to answer the charge of being a seditious person. This had its effect upon the Emir, who is a person without any nerve, and he immediately made proposals to Gibran Aura to pay the sum required; but this person, to punish his contumacy in not having paid at once, now demanded 12,500 piastres, of which I hear confidentially 10,000 piastres was to be given to Mustapha Pasha, and 2,500 to Aura, which the Prince paid.

He then called upon Gibran Aura, to perform his part of the agreement, by giving him an exculpatory document, and allowing him to return to his family.

Instead, however, of giving him either the one or the other, the Seraskier's Secretary sends him the originals of the two inclosures, one of which, if signed, would involve his life, and the other his honour, besides making it appear that he had acted as a traitor to his family and to the good of his country.

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Gibran Aura pressed for an instant compliance with his demand, stating that if not conceded, his property and person were not safe.

In his distress the Emir had recourse to me, and addressed to me a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy to your Lordship. I have the honour to observe, in reference to what the Emir states, that he was the first person of note who declared in favour of the Sultan, and who answered to the call of Commodore Napier and Mr. Wood in the year 1840, coming down, at risk to himself, his property, and family, which he left behind at Gazir, to render his services to Sir Robert Stopford. On this occasion, at which Mr. Moore was present, Selim Pasha, the senior Ottoman authority then in Syria, rewarded the Emir by taking from his own neck the military insignia which he wore, and invested the Emir.

Under all the circumstances of the case, I felt Her Majesty's Government would not wish that the protection of the British flag should be refused to one who had rendered good service to her Majesty's servants, and to the furtherance of the policy which they were ordered to carry out.

I therefore felt no hesitation in soliciting that protection from Captain Michell, of Her Majesty's ship "Inconstant," who is ever ready to give me the aid of his experience and talent, and he has been so kind as to receive the Emir and his two young sons.

I gave the Emir clearly to understand, that his reception on board Her Majesty's ship was an act of humanity, and that I could give him no hope that Her Majesty's Government could prevent the confiscation of his property, although I was certain that they would be pleased to do their best to obtain for him the dispensation of justice. In order not to act upon light grounds, the Emir and his Secretary have sworn to the hand-writing of Gibran Aura, which can be proved by fifty others in Beyrout, and to the leading facts which I have mentioned.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the attestation of the oath of the Prince and his Secretary by the Priest who received them; the other voluminous documents relating to this case are in my possession, and fully prove the guilt of Gibran Aura, the Seraskier's Secretary.

By forcing the Emir Abdallah to sign the document No. 1, the Seraskier forwarded the darling object of the Porte's policy, the establishment of Turkish rule in the Lebanon; for it was most conducive to its success that, as the contents say, the nearest relation of the Shehabs who had lately reigned, should declare that their dynasty was "incomparably inferior to that of the present Government."

The Emir is a persecuted man on account of his known adherence to the Shehabs; he was a short time back deprived of two estates by order of Omar Pasha, which were given to two other members of the Shehab family, who allege that thirty-five years ago they were deprived of them by the Emir's father. The reason of this injustice is clear: these two Shehabs signed the petition in favour of Omar Pasha, as mentioned in my despatch of the 9th of May, to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning.

The occurrence in question is a very important one; for, although the concurrent testimony of the foreign agents proved that Mustapha Pasha had misrepresented wilfully the wishes of the people on the question of a Governor; that he had employed bribery and intimidation to obtain their signatures to petitions in favour of Turkish rule; yet still there was no direct evidence which could have been adduced to light to bring home to the Seraskier that such had been his policy; but in the present instance the most considerable man in the Lebanon, by station and property, on oath, corroborated, too, by that of his Secretary and circumstantial evidence, fixes these corrupt acts on Mustapha Pasha's Secretary, so clearly as to ensure his conviction before any legal tribunal.

No doubt, besides, can be thrown on the testimony of Emir Abdallah, a timid helpless man, very much attached to his wife and five children, and never stirring from his house; what, then, but necessity and personal fear would have induced him to leave all, to risk the confiscation of his property, and seek a refuge on the sea amongst strangers of different language and religion?

The occurrence is further important, because, in exposing the conduct of the corrupt Secretary, it has exposed that of Mustapha Pasha; has caused the truth spoken by the foreign Agents to triumph over the untruth and machina-

tions of Mustapha Pasha, and has exposed a policy as wicked and as dangerous as ever was pursued in any country; for it cannot be supposed that even irresolute as are the Maronites, they would quietly consent to see a question which involves their happiness for ever, smothered by intimidation and corruption, without a struggle against a most unpopular Government.

I have unceasingly and earnestly exhorted the Christians to be tranquil and patient, and afford no motive for the adoption of coercive measures; yet I regret to say, that I cannot guarantee the continuance of peace unless the Porte's servants in Syria change their policy; for the reasoning of the Christians now is, that they cannot be more wretched than they are, and that as they have not been allowed dutifully to express their opinions, and that as Mustapha Pasha's conduct has caused them to be enveloped in doubt, they must, by revolt, prove the truth.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

*Arabic Document presented by Gibran Aura, Secretary of the Seraskier  
Mustapha Pasha, for Signature.*

(Translation.)

Beyrout, June 3, 1842.

EVERYBODY knows that necessarily there are in all parts of the world ill-disposed persons, who busy themselves in sowing corruption; depriving, by their agitation, the inhabitants of their tranquillity, and even of their security, in order to satisfy their own corrupt views, as is actually the case, since similar corrupt and ill-disposed individuals have succeeded, by means of their intrigues in Mount Lebanon, in spreading disorder in the Administration of the Government of the mistress of our existence, the Sublime Porte, whom God preserve.

Thus it happens, that whilst the public, or generality of the population, present themselves to express their desires, gratitude, thanks, prayers, and ardent entreaties to implore the perpetual continuance of the present Government, behold those, of whom I have just been speaking, exert themselves to defeat these feelings by their false arguments, which have never failed in depriving the public of their tranquillity.

This, without doubt, is in opposition to the wishes of our Almighty God, and of the Sublime Porte, whose ardent desire and only wish is the tranquillity and the prosperity of her subjects.

The Undersigned, who is one of the family of the Shehabs, and the nearest relation to my colleagues who governed Mount Lebanon, I declare and attest sincerely and voluntarily, not having been asked nor obliged to do so, but on the contrary, conformably with the dictates of truth and justice, that the Government of the Sublime Porte, which exists at present in the Lebanon, is in every respect according to justice and equity, and that perfect tranquillity exists for all its inhabitants, double, and more than double, than was the case formerly—in a word, that there is no manner of comparison; consequently the measures of the said corrupt instigators have been, and will be, a pure infraction of the laws and of justice, and only tend to deprive the inhabitants of this country of their tranquillity and security. The justice of our happy and eternal Government should not permit such corruption to exist, but crush it and efface its traces, desiring as it does that all should enjoy tranquillity and security.

As the Undersigned is one of the slaves of the Sublime Porte, inhabiting the Lebanon, enjoying the height of his desires, ample tranquillity and satisfaction, and is treated with perfect justice and equity, as is likewise all the world, I have subscribed as above relative to my condition, declaring my submission; and in every case that it should be as the Master of Order may dispose.

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## Inclosure 2 in No. 139

*Paper presented to the Emir Abdallah Shehab of Gazir, for his Seal and Signature.*

(Translation.)

IT having been stated that many corrupt persons employ themselves in exciting the population and induce them to do what is displeasing to the Supreme Will, and consequently to deprive them of tranquillity: and it being deposed that these instigators act with the co-operation of the undersigned, I declare to you what follows:—

That since this happy government has honoured these countries. I have in no manner mixed with the smallest political matter, or in any other of that nature; that I have not assisted at any public or private meeting; that I have not been interrogated myself, nor have I interrogated anybody upon such questions; but have lived peaceably in my house, occupied in the cultivation of my property, and content to remain in obscurity, so that I might live quietly.

I declare that the machinations of which I am accused, have never been nourished by me, either by conversation or discussion; permitting no one to counsel me, or giving any answer, or showing any obstinacy: the said machinations being for strong reasons based upon pure corruption and intrigue, and having for their object to deprive the inhabitants of their tranquillity. And I declare that if, upon good grounds and after due evidence, the least instigation should be proved as having been exercised by your undersigned slave, in favour of those fermentations, I shall be worthy of the severest punishment, without meriting pardon. But if I succeed in proving truly and clearly my innocence, it will result that my accusers have not told the truth.

Your Excellency, I hope, will treat me as you treat all the world, with clemency; and will regard me with an eye of pity and benevolence; and not lend an ear to the accusations of persons, who spread snares for me in the matter of the present fermentation.

Henceforward, you, slave gives the most solemn pledge, and binds himself by the present document, that if the least instigation, or political intrigue, of the nature of which I am accused, should appear manifest either by writing or verbally, I consent to be punished in the severest manner, without hope of pardon. To this effect your slave gives the present document, supplicating at the same time your pity and your pardon: and that you will re-assure him of your favour, and accept him in his condition of a slave; which I consider more efficacious than the favour of the Universe. In every way all depends upon your orders.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 139.

*Arabic Letter of Emir Abdallah Shehab to Colonel Rose.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

June 4, 1842.

YOU know, Sir, that when the Ottoman Government and your powerful Government had honoured the plain of Djouni in these parts, we had received an honourable order from his Excellency Selim Pasha, the Seraskier of the Porte, as well as a request from his Excellency the illustrious Commodore Napier, of your magnificent Government, that we should come to them, and be honoured with the happy service; and that was through Mr. R. Wood, the trustee of the said Government.

After this demand, I have out of love to your Government, and in order to offer my best services to the Sublime Porte, and in obedience to the said orders, and to please the British Admiral, left my children and family, and the service of his Excellency Ibrahim Pasha, and had run all the risk, and went to the plain of Djouni, and I moved the inhabitants of Kesrouan, both nobles

and commons, to come forth and serve the said Government. Even at the time I went I had with me more than 900 strong fighting men, and this is a fact known to all beyond doubt; and while we were expecting to receive the fruit of our services and toils from the justice and compassion of the Government, behold she disregarded the said services, and our hand was withdrawn even from the government of the village of Gazir, and other places, which have been known to be ours from olden time; and they were given to others without any right, and then ourselves as well as servants' property began to suffer from aggression and insults, as we have already reported to you; then I remained quiet at home, employing myself in private means to support my family, giving up all public matters. Nevertheless, no tranquillity nor protection (safety) were given us, but the aggression was increased upon us and upon our servants; and the people of self-interest and intriguers began to present false accusations against us to the Government, and we have consequently been desired to do things beyond our power until now. M. Gibran Aura sent me two copies of two petitions written by his hand, and ordered by our said lord, the Seraskier; about which if necessary, I can swear by every courage and faith that they are the hand-writing of the said M. Gibran Aura, desiring me to make two petitions in my hand-writing like them, and to seal them, and to present them to the Seraskier. He sent me these by one of my men, Butros Bakos; and as the said two petitions are contrary to the truth, and against my conscience, and my honour, I have stopped from sealing them, as I have already stated in my journal to you, with my signature and seal. When I became so distressed and perplexed, and seeing the dangers we have to suffer for the future, without any cause or fault, and our former services well known to your Government are disregarded, and we became in great danger, and also my family and attachés: and as your Government is one of great zeal, mercy, and compassion, particularly towards this her servant; behold! now I entreat mercy, and beg the compassion of your Government; that I may be accepted under the standard of her protection, and powerful care; beseeching her to embrace me in her circle and favour, and hoping in the multitude of her justice, care, and protection, according to her bright way.

I also beg that my lady, family, and the places of my residence at Gazir, as well as all my property and income, both of land, mills, shops, and every thing that is mine, such as furniture and moving property, as horses, cattle, and also the agents who are appointed upon all this, and the overseers, be under the standard of your favour, and the protection of your Government, for whom I pray to God to make her foundation eternal, and to preserve for us your very great zeal, and to keep you.

(Signed) ABDALLAH SHEHAB.

This is fact in reality, and truth; and I your obliged can verify it by truth, and faith in God, and is pure gospel; as will I verify my journal to you of yesterday, by God and his gospel, before the priest whom I have authorized to bear evidence.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 139.

*Certified Attestation of Oaths made by the Emir Abdallah Shehab, and his Secretary Butros Bakos, before Father John Stambouli of the Convent of Beit Kashbon, in the Kesrouan.*

(Translation.)

HIS Excellency Emir Abdallah Shehab of Gazir, and Sheik Butros Bakos, have come before me, and have both taken the oath upon the truth of the reports and letter which his Excellency wrote to his Excellency Colonel Rose, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General in Beyrout, and these have been sent to-day; and, for the certification thereof, I write this in every verification. And they took the oath upon God and the Holy Gospel.

(Signed and Sealed)

KHOURI HANNA STAMBOULI.

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Inclosure 5 in No. 139.

*Statement on Oath by Butros Bakos, Secretary to the Emir Abdallah Shehab.*  
(Translation.)

I DECLARE, that some time ago I was ordered by the Emir Abdallah Hassan Shehab to go to the Emir Beshir Kaid, Bey of Brumana, in consequence of a letter which this latter person wrote to my master, begging him to send his secretary to him, the Emir Beshir, as he wished to communicate something to him.

When I arrived at Brumana, I found the said Emir Beshir, and with him Mr. Michael Nassan. I asked them, on the part of my master, the object of their message. They informed me, that having been in the office of the Seraskier at Beyrout, they had seen there a document which contained numerous calumnious accusations against the Emir Abdallah, with respect to his intrigues; that they had asked Mr. Gibran Aura, the Secretary to the Seraskier, to tell them of what the Emir Abdallah was accused. Gibran Aura answered, that he had not long ago demanded a sum of 10,000 piastres from the Emir Abdallah, half of it to be paid in ready money, the other half in a little time; that the Emir Abdallah had paid no attention to this demand, and that, consequently, he would not be delivered from the misfortune to which these documents condemned him, unless he now paid 12,500 piastres. The Emir Beshir begged me to return immediately to the Emir Abdallah, and communicate this affair to him, as well as to inform him, that it is the intention of Gibran Aura, in the event of the Emir's not paying him the required sum, to molest him grievously.

In compliance with the recommendation of these gentlemen, I returned in haste to the Emir Abdallah, and told him what had passed.

Mr. Secretary Gibran Aura having perceived that the Emir Abdallah delayed the payment of the money, invented and caused to be signed various statements against the Emir Abdallah, besides sending two persons to terrify him with terrible threats. A few days afterwards Gibran Aura wrote a bouyourouldi in the name of the Seraskier, and sent it by a Meibushi, who was instructed to bring the Emir Abdallah to Beyrout. He came here, and I accompanied him. The second day of his arrival my master sent me to Gibran Aura, to ask him for what object the Emir Abdallah had been called by the Seraskier to Beyrout. When I went to Aura and asked him the question, he replied, "The 12,000 piastres will not be sufficient now, for, since that time, the charges against the Prince are seriously increased, and, of course, the Emir Abdallah must pay more than was originally demanded of him, in order to clear himself," and he made use of many arguments to make me see the position of my master, who finally agreed to pay the 12,500 piastres; but it was with some difficulty, and only by means of the intercession of the Emir Beshir and Michael Nassan, that Gibran Aura agreed to cease his machinations against the Emir Abdallah, and accept the money. He then assured these gentlemen, that unless he received in his hand the money, the process should go on against the Emir; but that as soon as he paid him, Gibran Aura, he would obtain for him, from the Seraskier, an order assuring him, the Emir Abdallah, of his Excellency's good will, and annulling all demands, or processes commenced against him, and restoring to him some lands which had been lately taken from him. In consequence of these engagements, I paid the entire of the above-mentioned sum, by order of the Emir, to Gibran Aura, in the presence of Mr. Michael Nassan.

After having received the money, Mr. Gibran Aura said that he must go away on a mission, but that on his return he would finish everything which he had promised to the Emir Abdallah, who might make his visit to the Seraskier, and return into the good graces of his Excellency.

Mr. Aura remained about ten days away; and on his return yesterday to Beyrout, Friday, the 3d of June, I went, on the part of my master, to beg him to fulfil his promises; he replied, other accusations besides the former ones have been submitted during the last ten days to the Seraskier; and, in consequence, his Excellency is very angry with the Emir Abdallah. After a few minutes he took from his pocket two papers written by himself, Aura, and said to me, "Take them to your master, and tell him to copy them faithfully



himself, in the form of a petition to the Seraskier, and to sign and seal them; then do you bring them back to me before mid-day, in order that I may be able to lay them at the feet of the Seraskier, and implore the favour of his Excellency to permit the Emir Abdallah to have the honour to see him, and, I hope," Aura added, "that by these means I shall succeed in tranquillizing the Emir Abdallah and execute his wishes."

He made me understand, that if he did not do thus, that is, act with the documents as directed, that nothing would be done in his favour, and that the Seraskier would be confirmed in his suspicions which had been excited against him by the different accusations, and that in that case Mr. Aura would find no means to speak in favour of the Emir Abdallah. He held out many menaces and threats; what I mean is, he said, that the Emir Abdallah should be punished, and his property confiscated and given to many claimants, who will be permitted to ill-treat the Emir in many ways; he, the Emir, will also be ill-looked on by the Seraskier, who will try him by the different accusations.

In conclusion, I declare solemnly, that the preceding attestation is the truth of the facts, which I testify on my conscience before the Supreme Being and all the world.

I confirm this attestation by swearing to the truth of this certificate by the sacred name of God and His Holy Evangelists, in presence of the Priest, who is authorised by me to be also the witness to the attestation, which I have confirmed by my oath.

(Signed) BUTROS BAKOS.

No. 140.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)*

My Lord,

Beyrout, June 6, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship a summary of events since the 8th of last month.

With reference to the petition in favour of Omar Pasha, mentioned in my despatch of the 9th of May to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, I have the honour to say, that the Maronite Emirs, Sheiks, and commonalty who would not sign it, drew up another one in favour of Christian rule.

Mr. Moore and myself having understood that the ex-Emir Beshir was petitioned for, we observed to the persons connected with the petition, that they had better not name any member of the Shehabs, as such a course would give rise to discussion; they promised to erase the name, but in the copy sent to me on the 27th ult., I observed the same name followed by that of the Emir Emin, the petitioners, I suppose, thus hoping to conciliate all parties. As, however, faith had not been kept, and as I had always stated that Her Majesty's Government did not desire the return to power of an Emir, who for good reasons had been deposed, I told the petitioners that I must act with consistency, and that therefore I could not forward a copy of the petition to Her Majesty's Ambassador. The parties expressed much regret, said that they had acted ill, and added, that unanimously they would have asked for the Emir Emin, had they not feared that the intrigue in which he had been, as report said, involved in Constantinople, incapacitated him for the Emirat.

Another petition circulated within the last fortnight by Mustapha Pasha to counteract the one in question, has failed, the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar firmly refusing to sign it; as a punishment on them and the rest of the recusant Christians, Omar Pasha has recalled to Deir-el-Kammar the cruel Druse Chief, Hamoud Abuneked; and fearful of the projected union betwixt Druses and Christians, the Turkish authorities have again, in a degree excited the former against the latter, allowing also the Druses again to expulse the Christians from their properties in some instances.

To within ten days the Albanians continued to commit their excesses. I have made earnest representations to the Seraskier: Ali Pasha says, that he will keep them in order; his offer has been put to the proof, for upwards of 4,000 have been sent to him at Sidon, and from that place 500 to Deir-el-Kammar.

Five days ago a Druse coming from the Aala Mountains, near Aleppo



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where we counted of his countrymen upwards of 3,000 fighting men, was stopped at the Cordon. A packet of letters was found on him, they were from the above-mentioned Druses to their brethren in this country.

The country is quiet, but the elements of disorder are numerous and at hand; those of order are not visible. The suppression of the wishes of the Christians as to their ruler, have added to their disaffection a feeling of deep resentment.

The Druse Chief, Youssuf Abd-el-Melek, surrounded by his adherents, defies the authority of their Pasha.

Mustapha and Omar Pashas have opened the door to endless strife, for to strengthen their falling interest with the Druses, they have avowed, and in many instances acted on the principle of taking land, the property of Christians, and giving it without form of trial to Druses; merely because the latter allege that it was unjustly taken from them in days gone by, the lapse of time, varying from fifteen years to a century, being immaterial; and this too in spite of the Turkish law, which establishes fifteen years' possession as a legal right.

Omar Pasha has circulated a record, a sort of condemnatory journal of the offences of the ex-Emir Beshir, which has been attested by the Druses nearly universally, but by few Christians.

The Christians have addressed a petition to Mustapha Pasha, entreating him to cause their property and lands to be restored to them, of which they are as yet deprived.

The majority of both Druses and Christians are dangerously disposed towards their government; the Mussulmans are discontented, but an appeal to their fanaticism would speedily rally them round the standard of their rulers.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 141.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, June 8, 1842.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to say that on the 6th I waited on Mustapha Pasha, accompanied by Mr. Moore, to explain to him the cause of the embarkation of the Emir Abdallah.

I detailed the treatment which the Emir had received from his Excellency's Secretary, Gibran Aura. I told the Seraskier that the permission to the Emir to embark on board of Her Majesty's ship was an act of humanity and nothing else; that I had acted in the matter with reluctance, and that as soon as his Excellency would have the goodness to state that Gibran Aura did not act by his authority, and would give an assurance that the Emir could, with safety to his person and property, leave Her Majesty's ship, I would cheerfully solicit the Emir to return to his house.

The Seraskier, who was more courteous than I had ever seen him before, treated the matter very lightly, said that he had only wished that as the Emir lived a long way off he should come nearer to him, and live quietly for a little time at Beyrout; that he had given him rations for his horses and himself, and been kind to him. It is most satisfactory that the Seraskier made no accusation whatever against the Emir Abdallah, thus affording testimony against his own Secretary; however, when the Seraskier spoke of the Emir he did so with great pique, calling him "Chapkin."

His Excellency asked me to transmit to him by Mr. Moore, the two Arabic papers drawn up by his Secretary, and changed the subject as soon as he could.

The next morning his interpreter, Mr. Dimitri, came to me and said that the Seraskier wished to see Mr. Moore in an hour with the papers. This gentleman then said that the Pasha had heard several accusations against his Secretary, that he wanted to bring them home to him; and the Interpreter begged that Mr. Moore would in no way spare Gibran Aura, and that he, Dimitri, would translate faithfully all he said to the Seraskier.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of the minute of Mr. Moore's interview with the Seraskier. I saw from it that the intention of the Seraskier and his divan was to intimidate me.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of my letter addressed to the Seraskier in reply to his statement.

Last night at midnight, Captain Michell sent an officer to inform me that the Emir Abdallah's Confessor had just come on board from the Mountain with the intelligence that half a dozen horsemen had come to Gazir, the town near which the Emir Abdallah resides, at noon of that same day, and announced they were to arrest several Maronite Sheiks of influence, as well as some of the common orders, by command of Omar Pasha. A letter to me from the Emir Abdallah confirmed this, as well as that the orders for arrests amounted to forty-five, all of them Christians who had lately refused to sign a petition in favour of Omar Pasha. That several of the persons to be arrested wished to come on board the "Inconstant," and that if they could not do so they would put to death the few horsemen who were scattered through Gazir.

I immediately went on board the "Inconstant," exposed to the Confessor the singular folly of resistance to the authorities; added that the movement of persons to the ships would produce excitement, and that a measure consequent on it might be the march of Albanians to the Mountain; that any hostile act towards the authorities would be ruinous to the interests of the people, and that so repugnant would it be to me, that I warned them that if any resistance to the authority took place I would suggest to the officer commanding Her Majesty's naval forces the propriety of leaving the coast; but that if they would submit quietly to be arrested I would do my best to convey immediate intelligence of such an event to Constantinople. I begged him to convey this my statement without delay to the leading persons at Gazir.

I thought that it was probable that the unpardonable conduct of the Turkish Authorities in arresting the Christians because they had expressed a legitimate wish, recognized by the Porte, might cause a movement of the mountaineers. And as it is the wish of his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, and I venture to say that I fully enter into his Excellency's views, that the foreign agents here should act, as much as possible, with unanimity, I begged Mr. Moore frankly to explain to M. Bourrée the case of the Emir Abdallah, and my opinion that the people should be advised not to come on board any ships, but to submit quietly to be arrested by the Turkish Authorities who could not hurt them. And to remove still more the chance of an outbreak which might have entailed the worst consequences, I begged M. d'Adelbourg,—for I thought it possible that the Seraskier after what had passed might not listen to my representations in a desirable spirit,—to have the kindness to point out to his Excellency the impolicy of arresting the Sheiks, and the positive danger to the public tranquillity; and I requested M. d'Adelbourg to say that so strongly did I feel the risk of the proceeding that I had requested the officer commanding Her Majesty's Naval Forces to allow Her Majesty's steamer to convey the intelligence of such a critical state of affairs to Constantinople, were the arrest of the Chiefs persisted in.

Nothing could be better than the manner in which M. d'Adelbourg performed this delicate duty. The Seraskier said he did not know where Gazir (the capital of the Kesrouan) was; that he had given no orders to arrest chiefs; that he would send immediate orders to Omar Pasha to recall the horsemen; and that, in future, no horsemen should convey orders to the Mountain, but that they should be addressed to the Sheiks of the district. His Excellency then mentioned without any asperity the Emir Abdallah's affair: my letter had evidently produced a good effect.

M. d'Adelbourg ably advocated my mode of proceeding. The Seraskier made concessions which, if amplified, may cause, without any risk, the voluntary disembarkation of the Emir Abdallah, a circumstance which will give me great pleasure.

I begged M. d'Adelbourg, in the event of the Seraskier's mentioning the Emir's case, to say that the motive of my conduct was humanity; that refuge had only been granted to a Turkish subject, and that I had only mentioned, as I had done the misconduct of a Turkish functionary, for the sake of humanity,

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and that were I assured of the safety of the Emir and his property, I would do anything to spare the Seraskier's feelings.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

P.S. M. d'Adelbourg and Mr. Moore, who happened to be with me the evening the officer came from the "Inconstant" with the intelligence of the order for the arrest of the chiefs, so suddenly determined on, thought with me that it was probably planned for the purpose of producing troubles, the blame of which would be placed on me.

I think it important to add that the Seraskier admitted to M. d'Adelbourg the right of ships of war of all nations to give refuge, and that he gives up the Emir Abdallah.

I regret to say that, notwithstanding his promise, the Seraskier has not withdrawn the horsemen; and that all the Sheiks who have not signed the petitions in favour of Turkish rule have hid themselves.

HUGH ROSE.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 141.

*Minute of an Interview between Mr. Moore and the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, June 7, 1842.*

ON my entrance, I found Mustapha Pasha seated in a careless attitude on the edge of the divan.

There were also present, seated on chairs, Mehemet Pasha and Ayoub Pasha, whilst a Turk of rank (whose name I do not know) was seated on a lower divan to the right of the Seraskier.

The whole demeanour of Mustapha Pasha and that of his Council, indicated an intention to overbear me.

Nothing could contrast more forcibly than did the Seraskier's deportment on the occasion, than that he assumed at the interview of yesterday, when I had the honour to accompany Colonel Rose. Even his Dragoman seemed animated by the same spirit, for on meeting me at the door of the chamber he did not give even a sign of recognition.

Observing the immovable and careless attitude of the Seraskier at my entrance I advanced unceremoniously, and with a slight salutation, seated myself at once in a chair near the Pasha, leaving Ayoub Pasha below me.

The Seraskier did not even motion me to be seated.

A profound silence was maintained by all for a few seconds, when the Seraskier, probably perceiving that a little civility would be the better tactic, observed to me listlessly on the fineness of the weather. To this I replied coldly, but with civility, affirmatively. Another pause ensued, but pipes and coffee being served, I said to the Dragoman, that understanding his Excellency had expressed a wish to see the original papers relating to the affair which had been the subject of the interview betwixt his Excellency and Colonel Rose, yesterday, I had by desire of Colonel Rose, brought them for his inspection.

The Seraskier having expressed a desire to see the papers, I handed them to him.

He looked at them carelessly and contemptuously, holding them betwixt his fore-finger and thumb.

He then handed them to Mehemet Pasha, who in turn having slightly examined them, gave them to the Officer on the divan. A few remarks in a careless and under tone passed in the Council.

Gibran Aura was then introduced, to whom the papers were handed for inspection; having glanced at them he at once denied them to be his handwriting.

Upon this denial, I remarked to Aura (as I had previously done to the Seraskier) that persons wholly unconnected with, and ignorant of the transaction to which they related, had at the first glance pronounced them to be his.

Aura's stay was short, not more I think than a minute, his manner by no

means indicated alarm, but rather upon the whole denoted a suppressed confidence that he had nothing to fear from the examination.

The Seraskier then adverted to the Emir Abdallah, to whom he applied, in a bitter tone, the epithet "Chapkin," and said, that since he had gone on board the frigate there had been a commotion in the Mountain, and that, therefore, he had officially to desire that Colonel Rose would cause him to be disembarked.

I replied, that (as his Excellency was already aware) Colonel Rose had with extreme reluctance acceded to the request of the Emir, so reluctantly, that notwithstanding the most solemn asseverations of the Emir, he had required him further to make oath as to the motives which induced him to apply for an asylum on board Her Majesty's ship. That five weeks ago a similar application on the part of the Emir had been rejected by Colonel Rose, who had advised him to remain at home: and that it was only upon his renewed application, and after matur consideration of the evidence adduced, direct and collateral, that both menaces had been used and money extorted from the Emir (who, moreover, considered his life to be in danger) that Colonel Rose had consented to his request. I observed further, that the Emir could have acted from no other motives than those alleged by him, viz., from fear; for to a man of his habits a separation from his family, the expense of a journey to Malta, &c., were grave considerations. Whilst his Excellency would easily conceive all the inconvenience caused on board the frigate by the Emir's presence.

In continuation, I said, that nothing would, I was persuaded, indeed that I was authorized to say so, afford Colonel Rose greater pleasure than to have it in his power to assure the Emir Abdallah, on the part of his Excellency, that he had nothing to fear either for his person or property, and that he might with safety return to his family.

The Seraskier rejoined with suppressed rage, "What has he to fear? Who will molest him? Has he not had rations allowed him whilst at Beyrout?"

I pointed to the documents as containing the motives of his fear, "What evidence is this?" cried the Pasha: "they may be copies; where is Aura's receipt for the money?"

I again repeated the proofs for the genuineness of the writings; I maintained that there existed every possible evidence even as to the hour, the where, the when, and by whom the money had been paid, and that Aura would have been an idiot to have given a proof of his own roguery, by adding a receipt.

The Seraskier was then silent. I next tendered him copies of the documents, but with a motion of his hands, indicative of washing them, he declined receiving them, as indeed he also did in direct terms.

Upon this I observed that his Excellency seemed to give greater credit to the naked assertion of the party accused, than to the sworn attestations, and to all the circumstantial and collateral evidence I had spoken of.

The Seraskier, evidently growing impatient of a longer interview, said that he had only to repeat officially his demand for the disembarkation of the Emir, that if this were refused he should refer the affair to Constantinople, and that Colonel Rose should have told him of the application of the Emir, made five weeks ago, adding, "Is Her Majesty's fleet in these seas for the object for which the 'Inconstant' has been used?" I replied that the question was a divergence from the matter I was instructed to discuss with his Excellency.

The preceding is the substance of what occurred, though much desultory remark was also made, but all indicative of a determination not to give a pledge for the safety of the Prince, or to enter into any further examination of the evidence tendered.

The demeanour of the Pasha (who held a tooth-pick in his hand during the conversation) was of an insolent character throughout the interview.

(Signed) N. MOORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 141.

*Colonel Rose to Mustapha Pasha.*

Excellence,

*Beyrout, le 7 Juin, 1842.*

MR. MOORE, Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Beyrout, m'informe que votre Excellence l'a chargé de me communiquer votre demande que je fasse débarquer l'Emir Abdallah Chéhab, de la frégate de Sa Majesté Britannique "l'Inconstant," où il a cherché un asile.

Hier, j'ai eu l'honneur de faire parvenir à la connaissance de votre Excellence que l'Emir Abdallah avait prêté serment que le Secrétaire Arabe de votre Excellence, Gibran Aura, avait extorqué de l'Emir deux sommes d'argent, dont le montant était de 13,500 piastres, sous prétexte de le mettre à l'abri d'une punition dont il le menaçait, et de plus, de lui assurer la faveur de votre Excellence; j'ai référé également à votre Excellence, que le susdit Secrétaire dressa de sa propre main deux documens qui ont été exhibés à votre Excellence (et dont copies lui ont été offertes), lesquels il ordonna à l'Emir Abdallah de copier, de signer, et de transmettre à votre Excellence, comme son acte libre et spontané, rendant à lui Gibran Aura les originaux.

J'ai eu l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence, que l'Emir Abdallah allègue que le contenu d'un de ces documens compromet et son honneur et sa conscience, et le second compromet sa vie.

Le premier lui faisait dire, que la dynastie de la famille des Chéhabs, dont il est le plus proche parent, était incomparablement inférieure au Gouvernement actuel, l'Emir ayant toujours soutenu de son opinion la famille de ses parens les Chéhabs.

Dans sa détresse, l'Emir Abdallah vit que d'un côté le paiement d'une forte somme à Gibran Aura ne lui avait valu que des nouvelles persécutions de la part de ce fonctionnaire, et que de l'autre côté il était cité par un employé confidentiel de votre Excellence de faire des déclarations qui compromettraient et sa personne et son honneur; et qu'en cas de refus, il était menacé de châtiment personnel, et de la confiscation de ses biens. Convaincu de son innocence, et rappelant qu'il avait été le premier de répondre à l'appel fait à sa loyauté par l'Amiral Sir Robert Stopford, pour aider au rétablissement de l'autorité du Sultan en Syrie, exposant par cette démarche ses biens et sa famille à des grands risques, l'Emir chercha un refuge à bord de la frégate de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Ayant bien pesé et considéré toutes les circonstances précitées, et ayant appris de Mr. Moore, que votre Excellence avait accepté la simple déclaration verbale de votre Secrétaire, qui est si gravement compromis, rejetant, en même tems, le témoignage sous serment, et circonstancié, qui prouvait sa culpabilité, et dont les pièces ont été mises, et sont encore à la disposition de votre Excellence, je déduis de ces faits la conclusion que Gibran Aura jouit toujours de la confiance de votre Excellence, et que dorénavant des motifs de vengeance s'ajouteraient à ceux de la cupidité et de la malveillance dont il est animé envers l'Emir réfugié.

Pénétré de ces considérations, je porte à la connaissance de votre Excellence qu'il m'est impossible de solliciter du capitaine de la frégate de Sa Majesté Britannique le débarquement de l'Emir Abdallah, et c'est mon devoir d'ajouter, que l'Emir, d'après ses desirs, se rendra à Malte par la première occasion.

Il n'est guère nécessaire que j'ajoute, ce qui a été si souvent référé et par Mr. Moore et par moi-même, qu'en recevant une garantie formelle de votre Excellence pour la sécurité de la personne et des biens de l'Emir Abdallah, je m'empresserai de l'engager de retourner chez lui.

Quant à l'observation faite par votre Excellence à Mr. Moore, que la démarche de l'Emir Abdallah avait causé de l'excitation dans le pays, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que j'ai vu deux lettres de personnes respectables de Gazir, en date d'aujourd'hui et d'hier, qui réfèrent que cette ville, où réside l'Emir Abdallah, et ses alentours, jouissaient de la plus parfaite tranquillité.

Faisant des vœux, et pénétré du plus sincère désir pour le bien-être et la stabilité du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, j'ose observer que la circonstance qui serait la plus portée à troubler cette tranquillité serait un renouvellement des intrigues de Gibran Aura, pour induire les peuplades, ou par

corruption, ou par intimidation, à signer des pétitions en opposition à leurs désirs et à leurs consciences. Ses démarches ont déjà excité une sensation pénible.

Mr. Moore m'a communiqué le message qu'en cas de non-désembarquement de l'Emir Abdallah, vous en donneriez notice à la Sublime Porte; ose-je prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien avoir la bienveillance de lui transmettre en même temps copie de cette lettre. Et en honneur des relations amicales qui subsistent entre nos Gouvernemens, je vous prie de m'accorder la grâce de permettre que le courrier de votre Excellence soit porteur de mes dépêches à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,  
(Signé) HUGH ROSE.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

*Beyrout, June 7, 1842.*

MR. MOORE, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Beyrout, informs me that your Excellency has directed him to communicate to me your demand that I should cause the Emir Abdallah Shehab to disembark from Her Britannic Majesty's frigate "Inconstant," on board of which he has sought an asylum.

I had the honour yesterday to apprise your Excellency that the Emir Abdallah had sworn that your Excellency's Arab Secretary, Gibran Aura, had extorted from the Emir two sums of money, amounting to 13,500 piastres, under the pretence of exempting him from the punishment with which he was threatened, and, moreover, of ensuring him your Excellency's favour; I likewise informed your Excellency that the above-mentioned Secretary drew up with his own hand two documents which have been shown to your Excellency, (and of which copies have been offered to you,) which he ordered the Emir Abdallah to copy, sign, and send to your Excellency, as his free and spontaneous act, restoring the originals to him, Gibran Aura.

I have the honour to state to your Excellency that the Emir Abdallah alleges that the contents of one of these papers compromises both his honour and his conscience, and the second compromises his life.

The first made him say that the dynasty of the Shehab family, of which he is the nearest relative, was incomparably inferior to the existing Government, the Emir having always supported with his opinion the family of his relatives the Shehabs.

In his distress, the Emir Abdallah perceived that, on the one hand, the payment of a considerable sum to Gibran Aura had only had the effect of bringing upon him fresh persecutions on the part of this functionary, and that, on the other hand, he was summoned by a confidential agent of your Excellency to make declarations which would compromise both his person and his honour, and that, in case of refusal, he was threatened with personal chastisement, and with the confiscation of his property. Convinced of his innocence, and remembering that he was the first to answer to the summons addressed by Admiral Sir Robert Stopford to his loyalty, in order to assist in re-establishing the Sultan's authority in Syria, exposing thereby his property and his family to great risks, the Emir sought refuge on board Her Britannic Majesty's frigate.

Having well weighed and considered all the aforesaid circumstances, and having learnt from Mr. Moore that your Excellency had received the mere verbal declaration of your Secretary, who is so seriously compromised, rejecting at the same time the testimony on oath, and circumstantial, which proved his guilt, and the papers relating to which have been placed, and still are, at your Excellency's disposal, I draw from these facts the conclusion that Gibran Aura continues to enjoy your Excellency's confidence, and that, henceforth, motives of vengeance would be added to those of cupidity, and of the ill-will with which he is animated towards the refugee Emir.

Impressed with these considerations, I inform your Excellency that it is impossible for me to request from the Captain of Her Britannic Majesty's frigate, that the Emir Abdallah should be put on shore, and it is my duty to add, that the Emir, in conformity with his wishes, will proceed to Malta by the first opportunity.

It is scarcely necessary that I should add, what has been so often stated by Mr. Moore and by myself, that on receiving a formal guarantee from your Excel-



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lency for the security of the person and property of the Emir Abdallah, I will immediately persuade him to return home.

As regards the observation made by your Excellency to Mr. Moore, that the proceeding of the Emir Abdallah had caused excitement in the country, I have the honour to inform you, that I have seen two letters from respectable persons at Gazir, dated yesterday and to-day, stating that that city, where the Emir Abdallah resides, and its neighbourhood, were perfectly tranquil.

Praying for, and desiring most sincerely the well-being and the stability of the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, I venture to observe, that the circumstance which would be most calculated to disturb this tranquillity would be a renewal of the intrigues of Gibran Aura, in order to induce the people, either by corruption, or by intimidation, to sign petitions in opposition to their wishes and consciences. His proceedings have already excited a painful sensation.

Mr. Moore has communicated to me the message that, in case the Emir Abdallah should not disembark, you would give notice thereof to the Sublime Porte; I venture to request your Excellency to be pleased to have the goodness to forward to her at the same time a copy of this letter. And, in honour of the friendly relations which subsist between our Governments, I request you to grant me the favour of allowing that your Excellency's courier should be the bearer of my despatches to his Excellency the Ambassador of Her Britannic Majesty.

Be pleased to receive &c.,

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 142.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)*

(Extract)

*Beyrout, June 8, 1842.*

I VENTURE to think that it will afford your Lordship gratification to learn that the Princess, wife of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim, has this day informed me that she has received a communication from Omar Pasha, that she will receive back four villages, the property of her husband, on her giving a receipt, when her agent receives them; and the other lands, Omar Pasha states, are to be restored very shortly.

The Princess begs me to transmit to your Lordship the most sincere expressions of her gratitude, or as her Excellency says, "all the thanks that words can tell," for the generous assistance which it has pleased your Lordship to give to her husband, and ascribes this good fortune entirely to the prompt and efficacious intercession of Her Majesty's Government.

I shall pay the utmost attention to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of April 29, and I beg to return my most respectful thanks to your Lordship for the great advantage which I have derived from them. It was only two nights since, that bearing them carefully in mind, I gave advice which prevented the inhabitants from wreaking their vengeance on the few horsemen, whom the Turkish Government, in what really appears to be infatuation, had sent to arrest numerous popular chiefs in the midst of their adherents, because they had refused to sign a petition to the Porte in favour of the Turkish Ruler.

I have received messages this afternoon from leading Christians, informing me that they will offer no resistance to the authorities, and conform to my advice to be perfectly quiet.

The most critical state of affairs, therefore, which has occurred for some time, has passed by in tranquillity, for there can be no doubt that if Omar Pasha's horsemen had been put to death in Gazir, the Kesrouan would have risen.



*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, May 16, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state that I have waited upon Ahmed Pasha at his special request, who informed me that Nejib Pasha had, while yet in the district of the Druses, and after he had received the official intelligence of his translation to Bagdad, ordered Shibli-el-Arian to attack Sheik Mohamed-el-Douhi, Prince of the Anazy Arabs, which he readily did, by falling suddenly on about 300 families encamped near the Haouran, with about 2,000 irregulars, wounding their Sheik, and carrying off a great quantity of booty, though in the end the Arabs drove him off with some loss.

The circumstances which induced Nejib Pasha to give the above order, are simply these: he had directed Sheik Mohamed-el-Douhi to present him with 1,400 camels and 5 horses, upon which condition he allowed him to withdraw from his camp. The Sheik, hearing in the interval of the Pasha's removal, evinced no inclination to execute his promise, which led to the unfortunate attack in question.

The Sheik immediately had recourse to the Arab mode of declaring formally war against their enemies, by causing a black camel to be led through the various tribes which assembled in very great numbers, and attacked the Druse villages of Hout and Karayie, killing about 150 of the inhabitants, Druses and Christians, inclusive of 8 women and several children, who had taken no part in the attack made upon them by Shibli-el-Arian.

Ahmed Pasha appeared to be labouring under some irritation at the conduct of Nejib Pasha, which he considered to have been unauthorized, ill judged, and unseasonable; and in acquainting me with the reinforcement of 500 horse which he had despatched that morning to co-operate with the rest of the troops already in those districts, to prevent the Arabs from pursuing the war, he asked me what it would be best for him to do to reconcile the hostile parties, and prevent the further effusion of blood.

As I had been given to understand that the Pasha had made himself exceedingly popular with the Arab tribes and chiefs during his journey to Mecca with the pilgrims, I suggested to him the expediency of avoiding with prudence another collision with the Arabs, whilst he wrote in the interval to their chiefs, to explain to them that the order of Nejib Pasha was an unauthorized one, since it was given after his removal from this Pashalic, and to offer to compound their differences with the Druses of those districts.

I trust, therefore, that Ahmed Pasha's personal influence with the tribes, together with a proper explanation, will contribute materially towards an amicable accommodation, and the prevention of further hostilities on either side.

Shibli-el-Arian has obeyed the Pasha's order, and has returned to-day to Damascus.

The Pasha has also informed me that the Anazi Arabs have come in frightful numbers to the neighbourhood of Homs, but that he had sent an officer to them to prevent any misunderstandings arising between them and the peasants by a timely arrangement respecting the pasture lands where they may encamp and feed their innumerable cattle.

On the result of the Pasha's negotiation with them, I will do myself the honour of addressing your Lordship so soon as I receive the information which the Pasha has promised to communicate to me thereon.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, May 31, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state, that the four Druse Sheiks, from the districts of Hasbeya and Rasheya, in antient Lebanon, who went some time ago to Constantinople with a petition to the Porte, soliciting the removal of the Princes of

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the house of Shehab from the Government of the above districts, have returned with a Vizirial letter to the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, directing his Excellency to take their demand into consideration.

The Seraskier having referred the adjustment of this question to Ahmed Pasha, of Damascus, the Druse Chiefs presented a second petition, a translation of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith, signed ostensibly by the Druses, Christians, and Mussulmans of Anti-Lebanon, requesting again the expulsion of these unfortunate Princes, and their substitution, by Druse Sheiks of the houses of Shems and Kais.

Emir Said-el-Deen, ex-Governor of Hasbeya, on becoming acquainted with the foregoing, called upon me immediately, and declared in the most positive terms that, notwithstanding he had submitted quietly to his removal from Hasbeya, in consideration of the appointment of his cousin, Emir Ahmed, in his room, yet he would rather revolutionize the country, than see the rights of his family violated and annulled.

The Emir pretended that the family of Shehab received the hereditary feudal superiority of Anti-Lebanon 800 years ago, in reward for its services in expelling the Crusaders, and that consequently neither himself nor any other Mussulman member of the house of Shehab would quietly consent to the violation of their rights in favour of any Druse Sheiks whom they considered as their clients and vassals.

I attempted to pacify the Emir with such arguments as I thought would remove his fears and mistrust, and I assured him that, as Her Majesty's Government had much at heart the prosperity and tranquillity of the Syrians, they would not cease in their endeavours to persuade the Porte to adopt such wise measures as would lead to the establishment of order, and to the security of the interests of all parties. I promised him, moreover, to support the rights of the Mussulman branch of the Shehab family with Ahmed Pasha, and to use the limited means I possessed, in bringing about a better understanding between the Druses and the Emirs.

I have had, in consequence, an interview with Ahmed Pasha; after which, I invited to my house the Druse Sheiks, Abou Mahomed Hasn-el-Bitar and Abou Mahomed Kassim Bergasy, with whom, also, I had a long conference. The former, who is an intelligent man, and was one of the four who went to Constantinople with the object of removing altogether the Mussulman Princes of Shehab from Anti-Lebanon, was not long in perceiving the error of his countrymen, in wishing to deprive them of their ancient hereditary rights, and promised to desist from any further attempt towards the accomplishment of this object, provided that the Druse Kadi of Rasheya was superseded, which was effected forthwith.

The Christians who were forced to sign the petition in question, in favour of Druse Governors, were very much gratified with this change in the intentions of their rivals; and both united in retracting their petition, and in requesting Ahmed Pasha to reconfirm Emir Ahmet in the Government of Hasbeya, and Emir Effendi, who is actually here, in that of Rasheya.

Ahmed Pasha, who was inwardly disposed to follow the policy of the Seraskier—transfer the rights of the Shehab family in Anti-Lebanon to the Druses, who again were to be superseded by Turkish officers, since their (the Druses) removal involved no hereditary privilege or right—was rather surprised at this sudden change in the determination of both parties; but I pointed out to him the effects of the Seraskier's policy in Lebanon; the conflicting interests which it had produced; the dilemma in which it had placed the Porte; and the probable unfavourable results to which it was likely to lead; and begged of His Excellency to take timely warning, and avoid, by wise and opportune measures, the creation of fresh difficulties and quarrels. I gave him to understand, that the arrangement of the differences of the Druses and Christians of Anti-Lebanon, together with the reconciliation of the former with the Shehab Princes, could not but be duly appreciated by the friends of the Porte; and that as his conduct in these difficulties would bear a favourable contrast with that of those entrusted with the adjustment of the affairs of Lebanon, I would not fail to draw the attention of his Excellency, the British Ambassador, to it, that an honourable mention may be made of it to his own Government.

I have endeavoured, as briefly as possible, to acquaint your Lordship with the adjustment and termination of the disputes of the Christians and Druses of

Anti-Lebanon, their reconciliation with the Shehab Emirs, and the re-establishment of the rights of the latter, without detailing the innumerable intrigues to which these three parties have had recourse for some time past. The only concessions made to the Druse Chiefs, are the revenues of three villages in the district of Hasbeya, amounting to about £120, which are to be accounted for to the treasury, by Emir Ahmed, and an annual gratification of £60, which is to be paid by Emir Effendi of Rasheya.

This arrangement has been communicated to the Seraskier; and it is confidently expected he will sanction it, unless, indeed, his Excellency boldly unmask his policy, and persists in adopting, in this instance also, the impolitic measures that have contributed so powerfully to complicate the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

Inclosure in No. 144.

*Minute of a Collective Petition to Ahmed Pasha.*

(Translation.)

*Rebi-ewel 25, 1258, (May 5, 1842.)*

WE, the inhabitants of Hasbeya, and of its villages, venture to present this our humble petition to expose our condition.

The Sublime Porte has been pleased in its benevolence to institute the *Tanzimati Hairiyé*, for the prosperity and happiness of its subjects, and for the suppression of all tyranny and oppression.

We therefore humbly represent the overbearing conduct of the Princes of the family of Shehab, who are treating the inhabitants of this district with a tyranny unauthorized either by civil or human laws. They spill human blood without having recourse to the law of the country; they pillage the property of the population; they seize their lands; they tyrannize and commit all kind of forcible acts to the degree of inheriting the inheritance of others; and, in short, we are neither secure of our lives or masters of our property, not even of our children, since they accept bribes and compel our daughters to marry against their and our inclination: in a word, they are worse than the greatest of tyrants, Pharaoh.

Their object is to continue in possession of this district, and to reduce us to a complete state of slavery, but we can only acknowledge one Prince, our gracious sovereign Abdul Medjid. Their presence in the district is a sufficient cause for our total destruction and ruin; for their object is to create disputes and quarrels among the population, that by their disunion and misunderstandings they may consolidate their own power and enrich themselves by the spoliation of the Porte's subjects. They are like wolves among sheep.

We, your slaves, have had for a great number of years to submit to this tyranny; for we were afraid of them, as the Pashas of that period were bribed by them with our property to refuse to hear our complaints.

But although they dare not at present exercise the same oppression openly, yet their presence is sufficient to cause misunderstandings, confusion, and disorder among us.

We, therefore, present this our supplication to your Excellency, that you may be pleased to take our condition into consideration, and remove the Princes of the House of Shehab for the peace and tranquillity of the inhabitants, and appoint in their room the Sheiks (Druse) of the families of Shems and Kais, who are our chiefs from time immemorial, and whose characters and good qualities cannot but ensure our happiness and prosperity.

No. 145.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, June 4, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that I took occasion in an interview I have had with Ahmed Pasha and the Defterdar to express my regret at the removal of Emir Hangiar from the government of Baalbeck.

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The family of the Emir are the hereditary feudal Lords of Baalbeck, and in reward for his very eminent military services during the war, I solicited and obtained for him, from the present Grand Vizier, the government of that district, and the decoration of the Nishan Istichar.

The Emir has continued ever since to evince the greatest gratitude; and as his conduct has been very praiseworthy since the establishment of the Porte's authority in Syria, I begged of Ahmed Pasha and of the Defterdar to take into their favourable consideration both his services and his honourable bearing.

They then endeavoured to excuse their hasty measure by alleging that the country people have complained of him, but that if I would write and persuade him to come to Damascus, they would give him some other appointment.

But the Pasha has subsequently spoken to me privately on the subject, and has admitted that he only removed him to spite Nejib Pasha, and intimated to me his intention of nominating him either to Muara or to the Haouran.

As, however, I had every reason to believe he was only superseded in consequence of a bribe of £300, I said so to the Pasha, and I advised him strongly to repair the fault he had committed, and not to aggravate it by appointing him to the Haouran, where he was sure to come in collision with the Druses, and with his irreconcilable enemy Shibli-el-Arian.

Emir Hangiar has come to Damascus, and has called upon me to-day, and I entertain the hope of succeeding in my endeavours to procure him justice.

I have, &c..

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

#### No. 146.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 4.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, June 17, 1842.*

WITH reference to my despatch, of the 8th of June, to your Lordship. I have the honour to say, that the horsemen, who were sent by Omar Pasha to make several arrests of persons of note in the Kesrouan, because they had signed petitions in favour of the Shehabs, and whose arrival had caused so much alarm, were, agreeably to the Seraskier's promise, withdrawn on the 12th instant, but I regret to say, that I have received information from Omar Pasha's interpreter, that the statement of Mustapha Pasha to M. d'Adelbourg, that he knew nothing of their being sent on that duty, is devoid of truth, for nearly a month ago, Mustapha Pasha ordered Omar Pasha to arrest the Maronite Chiefs, in question. Omar Pasha who, it is said, saw the impolicy of the act, answered, that there were no Chiefs near him, and that, therefore, he could not arrest them; on which the Seraskier wrote a positive order on the 4th instant, which my informant saw, directing Omar Pasha to arrest the Christian Chiefs, twelve in number; and a secret order from Mustapha Pasha accompanied the above for numerous other arrests, and for the same cause; the next day the horsemen went to the Kesrouan, as I have stated before. This fresh proof of the Seraskier's disregard of truth is painful.

Although the horsemen, "Hawara," or sheriff's officers, were withdrawn on the 13th instant, yet Sheik Francis Khazin, the Turkish Governor of the Kesrouan, arrested two persons on account of their attachment to the Shehabs, letting loose subsequently one of them on the payment of a purse, the other is still in prison.

I have seen leading people from the Mountain, who inform me, that they had actually assembled their adherents in tens and twenties on the night when I went on board the "Inconstant," and that they would have infallibly massacred the horsemen, had they not received my earnest warning not to do so, as stated in despatch of the 8th instant.

It is difficult to understand the singular imprudence of sending a few badly armed and mounted horsemen to arrest the most popular Chiefs of the Kesrouan, a mountain province which is all but in a state of revolt.

The treacherous arrest of the Druses has added to the intimidation of the supporters of the Shehabs; there is a general panic and feeling of uncertainty

great number of respectable persons are hid in the convents and remote places in the Mountain. A rich young Sheik, Gandoor-el-Koori, frightened by the arrival of four horsemen in his house, went, without any notice, on board Her Majesty's ship "Inconstant:" I have the honour to annex copy of his letter to Captain Michell. It tells a true story, and his feeling and situation are pretty nearly those of all who support the Shehabs. When the horsemen were withdrawn, Captain Michell and myself persuaded him that it would be more for his interest not to excite the displeasure of the Turkish authorities by remaining on board a foreign ship. Quite mastered by fear, he proceeded as if towards the Mountain, but returned, and went on board the French corvette "Créole;" the commanding officer also persuaded him to go on shore, after the French Consul had in vain endeavoured to obtain a written guarantee for him from the Seraskier.

Omar Pasha has dismissed the two brothers of Gibran Aura, his clerks, for their venality. The Seraskier wrote twice begging him to take them back, but Omar Pasha resolutely declined to do so. The former's interpreter and secretary, presented themselves before Mustapha Pasha, and submitting to His Excellency a long written list of acts of venality and corruption of which I have a copy, against his secretary, Gibran Aura, pledged themselves to prove them. The Seraskier turned off the subject, and told them to go back to Omar Pasha, promising them 3,000 piastres each. On his return Omar Pasha informed them that he had received a secret order to dismiss both, but he did not do so, till he had received three orders from the Seraskier.

The great venality of Aura, and his brothers, excites surprise even in this corrupted country. The appeals, from the lowest of the people to the Seraskier are unheard, unless they are accompanied by presents: if the petitioner cannot possibly give much, as little as four or five piastres, about ten-pence, is taken; if there is no money, shawls, watches, rice, any thing of any value is acceptable; and the secretary frequently having accepted money from one suitor, takes a larger sum from his opponent, and then again invites the first to contribute afresh.

M. Basili says that the secretary has made about 5,000 pounds, and that from the tenacity with which the Seraskier holds to him, his Excellency must be deeply implicated. Omar Pasha declares, that if the Auras come to the Mountain he will hang them, and that amongst the many corporal punishments, which he, Gibran Aura, has received from Abdallah and Ibrahim Pasha for peculation, one of them has carried away part of his person; and yet this person is the confidential secretary of the Sultan's Plenipotentiary, and the main spring of the Porte's policy of the Lebanon.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure in No. 146.

*Sheik Gandoor Suad to Captain Michell, of Her Majesty's Ship "Inconstant."*

(Translation.)

Most Excellent Sir,

June 11, 1842.

YOU are aware of the want of peace and tranquillity, and the existing tumults in the Mountains. The cause of this is the conduct of the Government, and the people being deprived of property which they have possessed for a long period.

And as we are certain there can be no peace or tranquillity, and that things will always remain in this state unless the Government of the Mountains be restored to its ancient rulers of the Christian family of the Shehab, who are well educated, and know how to rule the Mountains, and that by their means the peace and tranquillity of the people will be preserved, we, with many others, have for this reason petitioned the Sublime Porte to take pity upon us, and to give us again a Christian of the family of Shehab as Governor of the Mountains, by whose means the tranquillity of the people will be restored.

But the authorities of the Sublime Porte have endeavoured to force us to sign petitions perfectly contrary to what we wish, and against our own

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interests; and because we have refused to obey or accede to their demands, they have oppressed us in various ways, till we have been compelled to leave our properties. Moreover, six days ago, twenty-five horsemen came to our domain, and presenting an order from Omar Pasha to bind and bring us to him, tried, with others attached to them, to apprehend us; but when we heard it we fled, and the above-mentioned cavalry have pursued us wherever we went, and are still seeking us. We have therefore come to your Excellency on board Her Britannic Majesty's frigate, now at anchor in Beyrout Roads, and present you with this our petition, praying that you look upon us with pity, and afford us the protection of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

We entreat your Excellency to accept this our petition, and everything will be left to your wishes.

We pray that Heaven may make your Government everlasting and preserve you for us.

(Signed) GANDOOD SUAD.

No. 147.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, June 25, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that I have received frequent communications from three of the Druse Chiefs now in prison, Sheik Naaman Djinblat, Sheik Said Djinblat, and Sheik Hussein Talhook, entreating me to beg your Lordship to be pleased to exercise your influence with the Porte to procure their liberation.

No. 148.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 4.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, July 2, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that yesterday M. d'Adelbourg read me a despatch written to him by M. de Kletzl by order of M. de Stürmer.

This despatch gives fuller instructions respecting affairs in this country, than any I have yet heard of. It pointed out to the Austrian Consul-General the advantage of an endeavour on his part to bring back to a sense of their duty those Maronite Emirs, and Sheiks, who forgetful of their country, and of their religion, and misled by fear and corruption, had signed the petition in favour of Omar Pasha; and further it recommended to the same gentleman to exert himself to induce the same parties to sign a petition in favour of the Shehabs.

Shortly afterwards M. d'Adelbourg said to me, that he had seen M. Bourrée, to whom he had told the substance of his despatch; that with reference to it they proposed to make the following suggestions to the inhabitants of the Lebanon, provided I agreed thereto:

First.—To declare that of their own accord they, the Maronites, renounced the indemnities, and that they only will claim the lands which had been seized since the last war.

Second.—That the Christian petitioners for Turkish rule should declare, that they had only petitioned against the Shehab in order to obey the Scraskier.

Third.—A petition from the nation, in which they should reiterate their wish for a Shehab.

Fourth.—A petition from the Druses that they also desire a Shehab.

The last suggestion was to gain the Druses, and cause their union with the Maronites.

I told M. d'Adelbourg, great as was my wish to co-operate with my colleagues, that—



First.—I had no instructions which would authorize my taking the active and decided part in the matters now agitating the Lebanon, implied by the suggestions ;

Second.—It did appear to me, that in the present temper and feeling of the Turkish authorities, the suggestions might excite both Christians and Turks, and most probably bring down on the former the vengeance and ill-repressed dislike of the latter, and that I could not see in the actual state of affairs what guarantee or security could be given to the inhabitants of the Lebanon, thus placed at issue with their Government, by the foreign agents.

Third.—That in the present critical state of feeling, the recommendation of union with the Druses, would be in fact considered, and acted upon, as advice to both parties to unite hostilely against the Turks, and that if they did so the blame would be laid to the foreign agents, perhaps not without cause.

M. d'Adelbourg immediately agreed with me, and with M. Bourrée abandoned their idea of the suggestions.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 149.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, July 6, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship a summary of events since the 11th of last month.

On the 21st ultimo, a Turkish steamer arrived with Ali Bey, the Haznadar of the Pasha, who took, on the 7th of May, the petition which was the subject of my despatch of the 9th of May. He brought a firman from the Sultan, which was received with great ceremony by the Turkish authorities, and with a royal salute ; it was afterwards read in public. It expressed extreme satisfaction on the part of the Sultan with the conduct of Mustapha Pasha in Syria ; and a postscript in the Sultan's own hand, it is said, desires him to remain in Syria till Ali Pasha shall arrive from Bagdad at Damascus, when he, the Seraskier, is to return to resume his duties in Constantinople.

In continuance of the system of deception which the Turkish authorities have carried on for the last nine months, Ali Bey, on his arrival, immediately wrote to the Emir Haidar that the Ambassadors had abandoned the question of the government of Mount Lebanon, which was from henceforth to be handed over without any reserve to the Porte.

The Seraskier told M. d'Adelbourg, some time ago, that the Powers were quite right to act as they did with respect to Syria, but that he, as a Turk, on the other hand, could not be blamed for his mode of proceeding.

The French Consul has received a letter from M. de Bourqueney, directing him to abstain for the future from sending petitions to him, but to advise the people to send them to Father Nicholas Mourad, representative of the Maronites in Constantinople.

One of the Abunekeds, a relation of the Druse Chief in prison, said to Father John, one of the leading Maronites, that the Druses wished to make friendship with the Christians ; but that as they, the Druses, had no religion, the Christians would not believe them. The priest replied, " Let the house of Abuneked address a petition to the Porte in favour of the Shehabs, and then we will believe them."

An Albanian in Sidon pulled the beard of Count Edmond Zichy, a cousin of Princess Metternich ; when satisfaction was demanded, Ali Pasha remarked that it was a " galanterie," an observation illustrative of the unprincipled system pursued by the Turkish authorities, in cloaking crimes and misconduct of Mussulmans, when they are not afraid to do so ; for the seizure of the beard is considered in the East as a most grave affront. The offender, the Austrian Vice-Consul says, was subsequently bastinadoed.

Count Zichy witnessed another striking proof of that corruption, which unfortunately extends from the highest to the lowest of the Turks, and is so much more boldly practised in Syria than in Constantinople. As, accompanied by two other Austrian noblemen, and M. d'Adelbourg, and that gen-



tleman's two kawasses, Count Zichy left the Seraskier, the sentry on duty placed his musket across the door, and said, "Halt! Bakshish," repeating the demand, and continuing the action, even when expostulated with. M. d'Adelbourg sent a second message to the Seraskier, who was very much agitated, and hesitated as to giving the satisfaction required (which was to send the man to M. d'Adelbourg to be dealt with as he chose), stating that if his demand were not complied with, he would embark on board the Austrian man-of-war, and leave Syria; compliance ensued, when M. d'Adelbourg made the unwilling soldier repeat a sort of formula of confessional repentance in Turkish for his offence, threatening him with instant bastinadoing, as feelings of Mussulman pride caused occasional hesitation and resistance to such an humiliation to an infidel. If the Austrian Consul-General, with two kavasses, was thus treated, what must be the reception at the Seraskier's of the Christian rayah, who has no recommendation but his misery?

The interview was fruitful in incident, and the Seraskier was the more distressed, for he had told the travellers that they might go through the country as they had hitherto done without an escort, and that they could proceed to Palmyra with safety; but he said to M. d'Adelbourg, "If you go anywhere, I shall insist upon your having 300 men;" and continued the conversation in this strain of irony, meaning thereby, that that gentleman, like all the foreign agents, had misrepresented the state of the country. This pleasantry was followed by the detention of the Austrian Consul-General, at his own door, by his sentry; and accounts soon afterwards arrived from Damascus, which induced the Seraskier to request the Austrians to give up their journey to Palmyra, as there was a "peu de confusion" in the Desert.

The Western Desert swarms with the Anazis, who, attracted by the weakness of the Turkish Government, hover round the rich towns and districts of Damascus, Hamah, Homs, and those to the north of these places. The state of the Arabs may be said to be the thermometer of the Government, if it is strong, they retire into the east; if feeble, they flock towards their prey in the west.

The Beni-Sakr and the Adwan Arabs lately told Mr. Tipping, an Englishman, that they were well disposed towards the present Government; this gentleman, surprised at so unusual an opinion, asked the reason, "Because," said the Arabs, "we do what we like."

There have been two robberies of English travellers.

First.—Of Mr. Archdeacon Ward, and Mr. Stewart, near Aleppo; they were also beaten. The offenders have not been discovered.

Second.—Of Mr. Tipping, who was robbed twice near Djenin, but his property was restored by the Sheik.

Mr. Samuel and Mr. Case were attacked near Hamah, on the road from Damascus to Aleppo, by Arabs; they beat them off, killing one Arab, and two mares, and wounding two men.

Omar Pasha, through his Druse Lieutenant, Hootoor Amad, conveyed to a meeting of the leading Druses at Kfer Nebrok, his intention to receive no more Christian petitions, to ask no more Druses to restore land or property to Christians.

This circumstance, together with the fact that no property, and scarcely any land has been restored to the Christians, that even a Sheriff's officer has been sent to the Princess Amoon, the wife of the Emir Beshir Kassim, to take from her the small sum of money which she had obtained for some silk belonging to a portion of land restored to her in consequence of the representation of Her Majesty's Ambassador, convince the observer of events, that the Turkish Government, fearful of an union betwixt Druses and Christians, and persuaded that they can rule alone by their enmity and divisions, intend at all risks to secure the support of the Druses by perpetuating the wrong done by them to the Christians, and by allowing them to enjoy, not only the pillage, but the lands which they have taken from them since the contest.

The Mutualis also, because they are Mussulmans, are allowed to retain quiet possession of the estates which within the last few months they have taken by violence from the Maronite Chiefs.

Two deputies went by the last Austrian steamer to Constantinople, to represent the wrongs of the Christians, thus continuing the project which failed in the beginning of May last.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, July 7, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on the 4th instant Selim Bey and Ali Bey went to Shoofaat, a town four miles from Beyrout, on their way to the Mountain, for the purpose of ascertaining the opinions of its inhabitants with respect to a Governor.

It is right that I should observe, that the Mission, whose avowed object is to ascertain the wishes of the Maronites, or of the majority of the Christian population, proceeded to Shoofaat, a Druse and Greek-Antiochian town, avoiding the populous Maronite villages in the Plain; Shoofaat being, moreover, the residence, and under the command of the Emir Emin Raslan, a Druse, who was a principal actor in the late civil war, and is now an oppressor of the Christians.

The next day two Elders from each village of the Plain, assembled by order of this person, whom the Turks, in consideration of his peculiar services, have made Governor of the Plain of Beyrout and Shoofaat.

A firman, expressive of the interest of the Sultan in the happiness and tranquillity of the inhabitants of the Lebanon, having been read to the public, two documents were circulated for signature by the Turkish Authorities.

First.—A very large paper, which contained a list of the losses sustained by the Lebanites in consequence of the exaction of the ex-Emir Beshir. It was given out that the sufferers were to be indemnified from the property of the Prince.

So acceptable a document found numerous subscribers, and the Greek Melkite Sheik of Shoofaat alone put down his name for several hundred purses for losses, said to be purely of his own imagination. This proceeding paved the way to

Second.—A petition in favour of Omar Pasha, which was then submitted to the inhabitants: the leading Druses and Greek Melkites, together with some Mutualis, signed it.

Whilst the Beys were sitting in audience, the Deputies of the Maronite villages presented themselves; one of them took courage, and presented to Selim Bey, the Commissioner from the Porte, a petition in favour of the Shehabs from the inhabitants of the Plain.

Gibran Aura, the corrupt Secretary, assisted Selim Bey to translate it, and then handed it to the Emir Emin Raslan, who, having read it, waved his hand, when the petition was seized by the Emir's attendants, roughly handled, and placed under arrest. On this the greater part of the Maronite Deputies, according to their fashion, fled, and the remainder, helpless with fear, were taken apart by the Emir Emin, and directed to sign a petition in favour of Omar Pasha, they having come for the express purpose of recording their wishes for a Shehab.

After remaining three or four hours in arrest, the Emir Emin sent for the petitioner, and said to him, "If you will write as I wish, I will set you free." The Emir then dictated a statement which expressed, "that the petition which the prisoner had brought in the morning was false, and that he, the prisoner desired the rule of Omar Pasha." This the Maronite signed, and the Emir set him free, saying, "I shall call on you to state that this is the truth before the Seraskier; if you do not say so, I shall cut you in pieces."

Yesterday, the day following the occurrence at Shoofaat, some hundreds of the inhabitants of the Plains of Beyrout came to complain to the Seraskier of the conduct of Selim Bey and of the Emir Emin Raslan, and deputies from them gave intelligence of what had occurred to the Consular Agents.

We agreed that, the state of the country considered, it would be desirable to see Mustapha Pasha, and ask some friendly questions of his Excellency.

Accordingly we visited the Seraskier, having previously agreed on the points of conversation.

We asked his Excellency whether it was true that the Beys had gone to the Mountain to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants with respect to a Governor, and whether it was his Excellency's wish that they should frankly

and unreservedly state those wishes. We related the whole of the occurrence at Shoofaat, and added, that it had intimidated the people, and that therefore, with the utmost respect, we counselled in friendly suggestion his Excellency to reassure them by the issue of a bouyourouldi, stating the real character of Selim Bey's mission. We expressed our regret that the Beys should have selected Shoofaat, under the auspices of the Emir Emin Raslan, as the scene of the exposition of the wishes of the Christians.

The Seraskier replied that it was true that the Beys had gone to the Mountain for the purpose we stated; that it was his wish that the inhabitants should fearlessly state their wishes with respect to a Governor; that his account differed entirely from ours respecting the occurrence at Shoofaat; that he would issue bouyourouldis to reassure the people; that the Beys had gone to Shoofaat, because it was the capital of a mookatadgi, or district.

Mustapha Pasha then proposed, that in order to reconcile our opinions with those of the Turkish Authorities, the Consuls should appoint a person to accompany the Beys, to whom he would accredit them. In answer to a question, he stated that he could not sanction the performance of this duty by the Consuls themselves, unless he went himself, for which he must receive an order from the Porte. The Seraskier stipulated that if our agents agreed with the Beys, that the majority of the inhabitants desired Turkish rule, they should state this in writing to him, and *vice versa*, and that the acceptance of this offer must reach him by eleven o'clock the next day.

We thanked his Excellency for this frank proposition: and having considered it, decided that it would not be desirable to accept it, for,

First.—We were not certain whether our Governments would approve such a step.

Second.—We knew no persons to whom we could entrust so confidential and important a duty.

Third.—That it was impossible to trust in any way the Turkish Authorities, or to foresee to what extent men, such as the Emir Emin Raslan, and Gibran Aura, who were thoroughly corrupt, and intimately acquainted with the country, might not disguise and falsify public opinion; and that our agents, unable to detect the false seals, said to be current, and a hundred similar deceptions, might be called to make a written declaration entirely at variance with the real state of the case, and most prejudicial to the policy of our Governments.

The Consuls, therefore, sent a message to the Seraskier by their interpreters, thanking his Excellency for his offer, and stating that they did not feel themselves authorized to accept it, but that of course they would communicate it to their Governments.

A letter has been received by the Patriarch from Father Nicholas Mourad, the Representative of the Maronites at Constantinople, which has created a great sensation; it states that Elias Hawa, the Agent of the Patriarch, and himself, had an interview with the Reis Effendi, which produced two results to public knowledge:

First.—That Selim Bey would be ordered by the Porte to traverse the Mountain, and collect the opinions of the inhabitants, who would be at perfect liberty to proclaim them, as well for the Shehabs, as for a Turkish ruler.

Second.—That orders would be sent to Mustapha Pasha to encourage the inhabitants to declare their wishes, to question them with mildness regarding their petitions, because the Porte will accept authentic, or true petitions, and will, moreover, listen to them if they are unanimous.

This statement of the Reis Effendi corresponds entirely with the statements made to the Consuls by Mustapha Pasha, and it is confirmed by the Mission of Selim Bey, and by the firman read at Shoofaat, and the different places which he visits; it invites the people to give full expression to their wishes for a Governor, whether Christian or Turk.

It appears, therefore, that either the Porte has yielded in an important degree to the representations of the foreign Legations, although she is unwilling that it should appear that she is influenced by anything except her own sense of justice and of right, or that unable to disprove the numerous accusations against the Seraskier, the Porte is affecting excessive liberality, in order to give a better grace to her final and unalterable decision.

This latter supposition acquires almost certainty, when we reflect on the

occurrence at Shooyfaat, and the unwarrantable menaces which I have just heard were held yesterday, by Gibran Aura at Mooktara, to thirty Deputies from the fifteen villages of the district of Shoof, the total amount, who had presented an unanimous petition in favour of the Shehabs.

The Sultan's gracious firman is scarcely read, when, in direct opposition to it, intimidation, moral and physical, is used towards those who, reassured by it, dare to utter their wishes.

Our visit, however, has been productive of good, for it will have diminished the intimidation, and has paved the way, perhaps, to some arrangement by which the real feelings of the inhabitants may be ascertained.

Soon after the Consuls had left the Seraskier, the petitioner, who had been ill-treated at Shooyfaat, accompanied by three hundred Christian Deputies from the Plain, waited on his Excellency to complain of the conduct of Selim Bey and the Emir Emin Raslan. Three of them were admitted, when they confirmed all that we had stated to Mustapha Pasha, who, not conformable to the "mildness" which had been recommended to him, gave vent to his ill-humour, saying, "Lies, lies," as the petitioner detailed his ill-treatment. Looking out of the window, he saw the numerous petitioners. I hear there were 200 more outside the town. His Excellency promised that an inquiry should take place.

I regret to say that the Seraskier gave us a most evasive and unsatisfactory answer respecting the indemnities, that nothing could be done about them till the question of the Government was settled. More than two months ago the Seraskier stated that a Commission of Inquiry should proceed to the Mountain.

The greater part of the land taken by the Druses and Mutualis from the Christians is in undisturbed possession of the plunderers.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

#### No. 151.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 4.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, July 9, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose your Lordship a copy of my despatch of the 27th of June, to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

#### Inclosure 1 in No. 151.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Beyrout, June 27, 1842.*

WITH reference to the Emir Abdallah, I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency copy of a letter addressed to me by M. d'Adelbourg, detailing a conversation which took place respecting that person betwixt himself and the Seraskier on the 9th instant. M. d'Adelbourg seemed anxious to assist me in settling the affair in question; therefore on the 10th instant we sent a message to the Seraskier, that we would wait on him together. His Excellency's answer put a stop to our joint effort. He said that it was Friday, the Turkish Sunday, and that he could transact no business, but contradicted this statement by proceeding to the Custom-house. M. d'Adelbourg and myself agreed that his Excellency either wished to show that he was indifferent as to the settlement of the affair of the Emir, or that he meant to slight us.

Captain Michell and myself felt that, as matters stood, the best course was to tell the Emir Abdallah to prepare to go, as he had intended, to Malta. About ten days ago the Emir announced that he could not undertake the voyage, as he had no money; he must, therefore, have stayed here till a security

would have been obtained for him through Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte. Captain Michell calculated, that by waiting for the Austrian steamer, the expense of the Emir's stay on board would not have been greater than that of sending a steamer to Tarsous, and a tatar from thence to Constantinople with a communication. This plan was the more agreeable to me, because I felt certain, the Turkish character considered, that the request for a tatar to the capital would mollify Mustapha Pasha.

On the 18th instant I sent my interpreter to his Excellency, to know whether there was any answer to my letter of the 7th of June; on the 20th, I sent the same person to ask his Excellency to have the goodness to lend me a tatar to go by Her Majesty's steamer to Tarsous, and from thence to Constantinople. His Excellency made civil inquiries about me, and the same evening I received a letter in Turkish, signed and sealed by him, copy of a translation of which I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency.

M. d'Adelbourg, to whom I showed it, says that it is like the notes of the Porte, with the addition of friendly expressions; he considered it as a full guarantee, with the exception of a sentence at the end, which would require explanation as to whether it was conditional or not for his person, and he conceived that the guarantee might also include his property. On these points, as well as the verbal demand of the Seraskier, that the Emir should come to Beyrout, and not go to his house in the Mountain, I found it necessary to receive explanations from the Seraskier; the result of which was, that on the 25th of June the Seraskier gave assurances to Mr. Moore that there was entire oblivion as to the past, on his Excellency's part, as to all matters regarding the Emir Abdallah, and complete security for his person and property with reference to the matter betwixt him and the Emir; that he, Abdallah, was entirely uncontrolled, but that he wished him to remain for ten days in Beyrout; that he might then return to his family at Gazir, and that afterwards his Excellency would inform him when he was to come down again, in the same manner as any other Emir would have to do so when business required their presence.

The Seraskier has thus ceded the important point which he maintained to M. d'Adelbourg.

Captain Michell and myself both agreed that consideration should be paid to the wish of the Seraskier, after so full a guarantee. We therefore told the Emir Abdallah that he could land with safety; he disembarked the next day, Sunday, the 26th instant, at Beyrout, his two boys going to their home at Gazir. Emir Abdallah, on leaving the "Inconstant," seemed to feel deeply Captain Michell's great kindness to him, who gave him up his own cabin.

I have obtained further important confirmations of the guilt of the Seraskier's Secretary, Gibran Aura, and of the truth of the statements of the Emir and his Secretary. The Emir Abdallah paid 7500 piastres of the bribe of 12,500 piastres, by a bond from his agent Koomati, to pay fifty baskets of rice, equal to 7500 piastres (a frequent mode of payment in this country), to the Secretary Aura, when he should choose to draw for it.

When the cause of the Emir's embarkation was bruited, Gibran Aura became frightened, and foolishly sent the bond back to Koomati, who has given it to me; it corresponds word for word with the description given to me of it by Bakos, the Emir's Secretary, who has besides identified it. I have thus recovered for the Emir the 7500 piastres.

The day after Aura, the Seraskier's Secretary, had sent back the bond, he met Koomati, and endeavoured to persuade him to go with him, Aura, to the Seraskier, and depose that he, Koomati, had never given the bond in question for him, Aura; Koomati made a pretext, and got away from him.

Thus circumstantial and confirmative evidence of the best nature, from an unwilling and an entirely impartial person, is added to what would condemn the Seraskier's Secretary before any court of justice; and this transaction, grave in itself, has assumed a far graver appearance, when it is considered that the Seraskier has refused to look into the evidence which circumstances had furnished me with against his corrupt Secretary, which I offered to him: he has, therefore, identified himself with this functionary, who all knew did his special bidding, when he used the purse, name, and influence of the Sultan's Plenipotentiary, to bribe and intimidate the Christians of the Lebanon into petitioning the Porte for a Turkish Governor: when, therefore, Gibran Aura's guilt is proved, the Seraskier's is proved also.

The informations which I receive every day convince me that the very great, almost the entire of the Christian population, view with dread and horror the prospect of a Turkish rule. I would fain not use strong words, but were I to use a milder one I should err against truth; and I not only repeat all I have said on this subject, but now, when the time of decision is drawing nigh, I venture most respectfully specially and carefully to repeat it. If I did not do so, I should not do my duty towards your Excellency, who has been pleased so kindly to listen to and to encourage me to submit to you the true state of affairs.

The affair of the Emir Abdallah is an unanswerable argument, should it suit the policy of the Powers to use it, in any future communications with the Porte.

As parts of the letter of the Seraskier required an answer, I addressed a reply to his Excellency, copy of which I have the honour to forward to your Excellency.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 151.

*M. d'Adelbourg to Colonel Rose.*

Monsieur le Consul-Général,

Beyrout, 10 Juin, 1842.

SON Excellence le Seraskir Mustapha Pacha, que j'ai vu hier matin pour quelques affaires particulières, m'a parlé spontanément et sans la moindre provocation de ma part, du cas d'Abdallah, m'ajoutant, "Je suis bien peiné de me trouver sur ce point en différend avec M. le Consul-Général d'Angleterre. Pour le reste je n'y reviendrai plus; Abdallah peut partir pour Malte; personne ne le retiendra."

J'ai dit alors que, d'après ce que vous m'aviez fait l'honneur de me dire, il y aurait un moyen d'arrangement, savoir que le Pacha veuille vous donner une bonne garantie concernant la sûreté de l'Emir Abdallah, et qu'alors il n'y aurait pas de difficulté de le débarquer.

Le Pacha s'est arrêté à cette idée, et après un pourparler assez long, il a fini par me dire en substance:—

1°. Tant qu'Abdallah, sujet Ottoman, se trouve à bord d'un bâtiment Anglais en étranger, je ne puis rien faire.

2°. Qu'Abdallah se débarque lui-même pour retourner paisiblement à sa maison à Beyrout; et qu'y arrivé il m'adresse une pétition contenant ses plaintes et ses prières.

3°. En cas qu'il soit toujours sous l'influence d'une peur, dont j'ignore l'origine, je consens que M. le Colonel Rose, ou vous, vous agissiez pour Abdallah me présentant sa pétition.

4°. Si Abdallah a des plaintes, elles seront examinées par une commission, ou de toute autre manière convenable.

5°. Après l'examen fini je ferai délivrer à Abdallah un bouyourouldi, ou document de sûreté, pour que personne ne le moleste.

6°. Si pendant le cours de l'entente, Abdallah essuye des mauvais traitemens de ma part, alors vous serez en droit de porter contre moi des plaintes fortes et fondées—et que lui, Seraskir, n'avait jamais eu aucune mauvaise intention contre Abdallah.

J'ai répondu: que l'affaire étant toute du ressort du Consulat-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique, je ne pourrais que vous informer amicalement, M. le Colonel, de ce que Son Excellence venait de me dire, sans influencer en quoi que ce soit votre détermination.

Voilà, M. le Colonel, le résumé des explications de Mustapha. Je vous les livre sans autre but que celui de vous donner un avis sur ce qui pourrait vous intéresser, en honneur de notre bon voisinage, et des sentimens de haute considération que je m'empresse de vous renouveler.

(Signé) ED. D'ADELBOURG.



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(Translation.)

Monsieur le Consul-Général,

Beyrout, June 10, 1842.

HIS Excellency the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, whom I saw yesterday morning upon some private business, spoke to me, of his own accord, and without the least encouragement on my part, about the case of Abdallah, adding, "I am grieved to find myself at variance with the Consul-General of England upon this point. However, I will not revert to the subject; Abdallah may go to Malta; nobody will detain him."

I then said that, according to what you had done me the honour to say to me, there was a means of arranging the affair, namely, that the Pasha should give you good security for the safety of the Emir Abdallah, and that then there would be no difficulty in his landing.

The Pasha caught at this idea, and after rather a long conference, he ended by saying to me in substance:—

1. As long as Abdallah, a Turkish subject, remains on board an English vessel on foreign soil, I can do nothing.

2. Let Abdallah land of his own accord for the purpose of returning peaceably to his house at Beyrout; and when he has arrived there, let him address a petition to me, stating his complaints and his wishes.

3. In case he should continue to be under the influence of fear, the cause of which I am ignorant of, I consent that either Colonel Rose, or you, should act for Abdallah, presenting his petition to me.

4. If Abdallah has causes of complaint, they shall be inquired into by a commission, or in any other suitable manner.

5. When the inquiry is finished, I will cause a bouyourouldi, or protection to be delivered to Abdallah, in order that nobody may molest him.

6. If, while the agreement is in force, Abdallah meets with bad treatment from me, then you will have a right to make strong and well-founded complaints against me;—and that he, the Seraskier, never had any evil design against Abdallah.

I answered, that the affair being entirely within the province of Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate-General, I could only tell you in a friendly manner, Monsieur le Colonel, what His Excellency had just said to me, without in any degree influencing your decision.

The above, Monsieur le Colonel, is a recapitulation of Mustapha's explanations. I communicate them to you without any other object than that of giving you information as to what may be interesting to you, in honour of our friendly intercourse, and of the sentiments of high consideration which I beg to repeat to you.

(Signed)

ED. D'ADELBOURG.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 151.

*Mustapha Pasha to Colonel Rose.*

(Translation.)

After compliments.

June 20, 1842.

YOUR letter of the 7th of June respecting Emir Abdallah is come to hand. But your friendship is aware, and it is also known to all, that from the time we arrived in Syria, the utmost of our hope, as well as the wish of the Sublime Porte, is that all the people and inhabitants, every one, may be happy and tranquil in mind, and that amongst them they should not have the things that will cause to them the want of peace and rest, and always engage themselves in things that concern them.

The said Emir Abdallah was accused to us to have been doing some unpleasant things in disturbing the peace and rest of the people of the Mountain. For his preservation, and protection (upholding) the said Emir was brought here, and nothing in the way of punishment or insult did happen to him. He was ordered to come, by a letter, and to be paid attention to, and even he was



given sufficient things to eat in his house during his stay at Beyrout. This being the case, the said Emir had nothing to fear or to suspect (viz. to disturb his mind). This being the case, the said Emir without cause (viz. necessity, reason, occasion) rose, and went on board the ship of the illustrious British Government, and without hindrance (impediment) he was received. He reported the grounds of fear, which have no truth. If there were such a thing he should at first come to us, and to have reported his case, and this ought to have been done. It is unnecessary to say, that from the time we came to Syria not a single individual was punished without justice, and it was never heard. The said Emir having kept back from reporting to us then, what he has reported to you, is untrue, and from his going on board the ship, and from his not appearing, will prove that what he has been accused of was clear.

As what has been said formerly verbally, the said Emir may stay at his house looking after his tranquillity, and to be far from disturbing the peace and tranquillity of the people (or he shall not interfere in any business); and as it was, that the least injury shall not happen to him, and to him there will be the measures of protection and preservation, and this friendly answer is sent.

He (the Emir) from no quarter the least interference shall not be to him from all directions. The measures of protection and preservation shall be given therefore.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed and Sealed) MUSTAPHA NOURRI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 151.

*Colonel Rose to Mustapha Pasha.*

Excellence,

*Beyrout, 26 Juin, 1842.*

J'AI l'honneur d'agréer le reçu de votre lettre du onze Djemazi-ul-evel, et je remercie votre Excellence des expressions amicales personnelles à moi qu'elle contient.

Quant aux accusations contre l'Emir Abdallah, dont votre Excellence fait mention, elle me permettra d'observer qu'elle a bien voulu assurer et Monsieur le Consul-Général d'Autriche, et M. Moore, et moi-même, "Qu'elle n'avait aucune cause d'accusation ou de plainte contre l'Emir Abdallah;" et j'ai l'honneur d'ajouter, que quant aux motifs qui l'ont porté à s'embarquer à bord de la frégate de Sa Majesté Britannique, je reste du même avis comme par le passé.

C'est avec une vive satisfaction que j'annonce à votre Excellence que le Capitaine Michell, commandant les forces navales de Sa Majesté Britannique sur les côtes de la Syrie, et moi, nous sommes parfaitement satisfaits de la garantie ample, tant verbale, que par écrit, que votre Excellence a bien voulu me communiquer, et nous prions votre Excellence d'accepter les expressions sincères de notre reconnaissance.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,  
(Signé) HUGH ROSE.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

*Beyrout, June 26, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th Djemazi-ul-evel, and I thank your Excellency for the friendly expressions which it contains with respect to me.

As to the charges against the Emir Abdallah, which your Excellency mentions, you will permit me to observe that you were good enough to assure the Consul-General of Austria, Mr. Moore, and myself, "that you had no charge or cause of complaint against the Emir Abdallah;" and I have the honour to add, that I continue to be of the same opinion as I have hitherto been, with respect to the motives which induced him to embark on board of Her Britannic Majesty's frigate.

It is with lively satisfaction that I announce to your Excellency that Captain Michell, commanding Her Britannic Majesty's naval force on the coast of Syria, and myself, are perfectly satisfied with the full guarantee, both verbal, and in writing, which your Excellency has been good enough to communicate to me, and we request your Excellency to accept the sincere expression of our gratitude.

Receive, &c.  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 152.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 3.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, July 25, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that the Emir Hallil Shehab, now residing at Damascus, brother of the Emir Said-ed-Deen Shehab, respecting whom Mr. Wood has so often had the honour to address your Lordship, informed a gentleman that at the beginning of the last year's disturbances, Selim Pasha, the Seraskier, wrote to Nejib Pasha, at Damascus, respecting an affair of his, the Emir Hallil's. After having stated it, Selim Pasha entered into a long detail respecting the contest betwixt the Maronites and the Druses. Nejib Pasha wrote without delay an answer to Selim Pasha, in which he directed him "not to trouble himself about what was going on in the Lebanon, for that everything that had taken place there had been done with the full sanction of the Porte."

Nejib Pasha's Secretary, by mistake, gave the answer to the Emir Hallil's servant, taking him for the messenger of Selim Pasha. The Emir's servant brought the letter to his master, who, curious to know what answer had been given to his petition, and in conformity with the looseness of Arab principles, opened it, and to his surprise read the remarkable proof of the iniquity of the Turkish Government, of which he took a translation, communicating the substance of it to my informant.

Thus, as I always expected, proof of the approval of the outbreak of the Druses by the Porte from time to time presents itself, and the conviction is confirmed, which I felt, that the secret was entrusted at first only to Nejib Pasha, with whom the plan originated, and was subsequently communicated to Selim Pasha.

A confidential attendant also of Sheik Naaman, gave me this day information tallying with the above, and which explained a mysterious visit of Naaman to Damascus, during the disturbance. He says, that the Sheik was called to Damascus, by Nejib Pasha, for the purpose of communicating to him his (the Pasha's) approval of the conduct of the Druses, and even to promise to them Nishans in encouragement and reward of their attack on the disaffected Maronites. Sheik Naaman, in his astuteness, declined the offer, but Shibli-el-Arian, the unprincipled and talented Druse Chief, has received two Nishans from his patron Nejib Pasha.

This information is the more important because it bears on the present state of affairs, now the subject of deliberation betwixt the Powers and the Porte; for it has been often stated, and it is an argument which is entitled to a degree of respect, that the conduct of the Maronites disentitled that people to any intervention in their favour by the Powers; but if the Maronites have erred, all must allow, that, if punishment can atone for error, their offences are blotted out, and that the account is balanced between them and their Government, which exposed them for two months to the horrors of civil war, and to nine months of Druse despotism.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 3.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, August 6, 1843.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship a summary of principal events since the 9th of last month.

Selim and Ali Beys, on their tour of inquiry through the Lebanon, visited Mooktara, the seat of Sheik Naaman Djinblat: to this place they convoked his vassals, both Christians and Druses, the inhabitants of the district of Shoof. As usual, it was intimated to them, that they should petition for Turkish rule. The Druses, on their knees, begged for the liberation of their Chiefs, as a boon, in reward of their compliance, or at any rate, for that if one of them. The Beys, addressing them in the most flattering manner, promised, that they would pray the Seraskier to grant their request; accordingly, from two to three hundred Druses, the greater part of them tenants of the Djinblats, mounted and armed, arrived shortly afterwards at Beyrout, and its environs, with a petition to Omar Pasha, and another from the vassals to the Seraskier, to liberate one of the brothers.

The Seraskier was alarmed at this demonstration of the Druses, and intimated to them, that they had better retire, and in the mean time caused the roads and environs of Beyrout to be patrolled night and day by the Albanians.

It is generally reported, and I hear also from a good source, that ammunition has been given to two or three Druse Chiefs, by the Turkish Authorities. This intelligence has caused great alarm to the Christians: it is a proof of the intention of the Turks, so often noticed by me, to support the Druse interest at all hazards. Omar Pasha has endeavoured to persuade the Druses, and has very likely succeeded in a measure, that the arrest of the Druses was caused by the representations of the Powers.

It is not to be believed, that the Porte will resist openly the restoration of a Christian Prince, should it please the Powers to express their desire that it should be carried into execution; but, that she, who has already recently excited the Druses against the Syrian Roman Catholics, would do so again against them, and the object of their peculiar dislike, a Christian Prince of the Shehabs, I have no doubt.

Mustapha Pasha is strict in his attendance at the Mosque on Fridays, and, at the close of the prayers, he recites one for the preservation of the Sultan, to which it is the custom of the Mahometans to respond. Two Fridays since, on the Seraskier repeating the prayer, there was a total silence, a repetition caused no interruption to it; in surprise, he put up a prayer for himself, which met with a similar reception. On Mustapha Pasha's sending afterwards his Divan Effendi to interrogate the Mussulmans respecting this want of loyalty, they frankly stated, that the taxation, exactions, and restrictions to industry, to which they were now subject, made them regret the rule of Ibrahim Pasha.

Two days ago Mustapha Pasha and his attendants were in low spirits, and the Divan Effendi stated, that news had arrived that the Turks had been worsted.

It is confidently stated, that Mustapha Pasha has requested the Druse Chiefs to give military service, with their clans, to the Porte, and to proceed to Aleppo, and, as is supposed, from thence against the Persians, or disturbed districts about Orfa, Diarbekir, and Mousoul; but two, Hootoor Amad and a minor Chief, have accepted the proposal.

The Druses and Mussulmans view any measure like conscription with alarm, and they look on the arrival of the sixty cases of arms, which lately came from Constantinople, as a bad omen.

The Maronite Deputies have just come to me with fourteen petitions from different districts and places in favour of the Shehabs, two of them are numerous signed by the Greek-Antiochians residing in the districts of Djebail and Batroon; their Bishop Zachariah had assured the two Beys that his flock would petition for Turkish rule; he was astonished, therefore, when despite of his presence and influence they presented their petitions in favour of the Shehabs.

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No. 154.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 3.)*

My Lord,

Beyrout, August 5, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, copies of my despatches of the 23d of July, of the 29th of July, of the 30th of July, to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

Beyrout, July 23, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency, that the information I have given as to the feeling of the Roman Catholic Christians of Mount Lebanon, the Maronite, and Greek Catholics, respecting a future Governor of the Mountain, is more and more confirmed by daily proofs of their attachment to the dynasty of a Christian Shehab. These two sects form the majority in the Lebanon, but it is far more difficult to give a decided opinion respecting the wishes of the minority, the Druses, and the Greek Antiochian Christians.

Both the sects dislike and despise the Turks, but the Druses hate the Maronites, because, independently of their natural jealousies, they have been oppressed by the Maronite rulers and Maronite religious influence.

In my despatch of the 25th February, I had the honour to state to your Excellency, that three Druse Chiefs, whose influence would command their party, would support the Emir Emin, and come to the beach to receive him. These chiefs were most anxious that an immediate resolution should be come to respecting that Emir, they foresaw that delay would enable intrigue to divide and weaken their party. Thus it has happened; Sheik Naaman Djinblat and his brother Said, the military leaders, are in prison, and the Turks have succeeded in causing jealousy and dissension betwixt these two brothers, by representing that his imprisonment is due to the attachment of Sheik Naaman, the elder brother, to the English and the Shehabs. I received a confidential message from Sheik Naaman two days ago to this effect, and I understand that Sheik Said has succeeded in raising 60,000 piastres on the Djinblat property, the sum demanded by Gibran Aura for his liberation.

The nature of the transaction became known, and either this circumstance, or orders from the Porte, prevented the Seraskier from setting Said at liberty.

Sheik Said is seventeen, very good looking, and led the Druses in the late civil war; with the war party, therefore, he is all in all, and more popular than Naaman, whose reserve and excess of cunning make him a favourite with the "Akal," or the enlightened; it is therefore possible now, that if Sheik Said were let out, he might be used by the Turks like Hamoud Abuneked, as an instrument against his brother for oppressing the Christians, and as the Djinblats can bring into the field four or five thousand men, this influence might, under the present circumstances, be directed by the Turks, as before, against the Christian interest, and the maintenance of good order; with reference, therefore, to my despatch, it would be more desirable to leave the responsibility of the liberation of Sheik Said, to those who made him a prisoner.

Sheik Hussein Talhook has sent me a message that he is still as strongly as before in favour of the Shehabs. Yousseff Abd-el-Melek is the same.

Emir Emin Raslan, a Druse, the agent between the Turkish Government and the Druses in the late civil war, and lately appointed Governor of the Plain of Beyrout by them, writes nearly every packet to the ex-Emir Beshir, to assure him of his devotion.

Sheik Naaman, the most cunning of a cunning people, has yesterday again sent to me a message that he is favourable to the Shehabs; that he would like

to be the Kiaja of the Druses to the Emir Emin, and that the Turks will never be able to govern the Mountain.

The Druses are the most feudal people extant; when, therefore, I have the honour to speak of the Druses, I do not allude to the nation at large, some of which desire a Mussulman, some a Christian Shehab; the greater part of them would probably declare for no government at all except that of their leaders; but of the eight or ten Chiefs who decide all important matters, the most influential are opposed to Turkish, and in favour of Christian rule; of the remainder, two are the culprits who began the civil war, and committed crimes which the Turkish Government promises to forget; yet, Omar Pasha even assured them that he will not ask them for their plunder; if he therefore has gained their adhesion for a time, it is explained, but it is idle to suppose that he can retain it on such grounds. One, and only one Druse, Hootoor Amad, an excellent soldier, may be Turkish, but I doubt it; he is besides poor, and has but few retainers. Omar Pasha made him his Kiaja.

The remainder are wavering, and time-servers, and would be the first to bow their heads, and kiss the hem of the garment of the newly appointed Christian Prince of the Lebanon.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 154.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, July 29, 1842.*

UNDOUBTEDLY the claims of the Druses to the special protection of the Five Powers is very slender; and since their outbreak and misconduct, I have thought it politic to represent to them that the position of the tranquil Druses of 1841, was very different from that of the actors in the civil war; and that if there was a diminution of zeal in their favour on the part of Her Majesty's Government, or of me their servant, it was to be ascribed to their own conduct, which had made intercession in their favour most difficult.

The Druses know this, but I thought it right for the sake of consistency to let them see that I knew it, and felt it also; and thus prevent anything like unreasonable reproach on their part.

I shall have the honour to submit to your Excellency, in a short time, further proofs that the Turkish Government sanctioned the attack of the Druses on the Christians; a fact which, in a measure, lightens the amount of crime of that people, and loads it on their rulers.

Inclosure 3 in No. 154.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Beyrout, July 30, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency, that two deputies, Habib Nasif and Moorad Huddad, proceed with the petitions of such of the inhabitants of the Lebanon as desire the restoration of the rule of the Shehabs to Constantinople.

They are just come, as they always do, very late on the day preceding the departure of the steamer; it is therefore quite impossible to transmit to your Excellency a translation of the summary of the petitions.

The number of documents and petitions which they showed to me amount to fifty, some from the Emirs and Sheiks, according to their families, to the Sultan; some from the fellahine, or commons, according to their districts; others to the Grand Vizier; one of these contains strong complaints. There are also copies of petitions of remonstrance to Selim and Ali Beys.

The signatures, with seals, amount to 8,200; in writing, to 3,473; in all,

11,673. Zahlé, and a part of the Kesrouan and other districts, are not included, they not having sent in their petitions.

The communication made by Selim Bey to Martin Hawa and Padre Nicolas allowed that the inhabitants of the Lebanon had the full permission of the Porte to declare their wishes with respect to a future Governor; and a similar statement made by the Seraskier to the Foreign Agents, as well as one that he would announce the same in a bouyourouldi to the Lebanon, a promise which remains unfulfilled, raised the spirits, and encouraged the Christian Roman Catholics to make a great, and what they considered final effort, in favour of a Christian Shehab.

The signatures to this petition more than bear out all that has been said by the Foreign Agents respecting the wishes of the Maronite and Greek Catholics.

The family of Sheiks, of whom the most petitioned for Turkish rule, are the Kazens, relations of the Sheik of that family appointed Governor of the Kesrouan by the Turks, yet of these, fifteen only petitioned for a Turkish Governor: whereas forty-seven of their family have signed a petition in favour of a Shehab. The former, about ten days ago, were brought by the Governor to Beyrout, where they received from the Seraskier one thousand piastres a piece for their signatures.

This information, universally known, is confirmed to me in writing by one of the family.

Many of the Emirs and Sheiks, who previously signed in favour of Omar Pasha, have now done so for the Shehabs, stating in one of the petitions, that they did so through fear: the principal of these is the Emir Haidar, previously mentioned by me, the person of the most note in the Mountain after the leading Shehabs.

The Greek and Maronite clergy have not publicly framed petitions, but I have reason to believe that they will send one to the capital.

The signatures of the Christians are, as far as I can judge, genuine; forgery was quite unnecessary on their part: the people said, and I am quite convinced it is true, that if they had been permitted, the entire Catholic population would have appeared at Beyrout to register in person their wishes.

With respect to the petitions in favour of Turkish rule, now the anxious object of Selim and Ali Beys, I can only repeat what I have previously said respecting these documents.

The Druses, their Chiefs in prison, and they themselves told, that if they will sign for Turkish rule their Chiefs shall be let out, and no demand made for the pillaged property, have yielded to such powerful inducements, and signed very generally,

I have already had the honour to speak of the Greek-Antiochians, and with respect to the remaining Christians, with the exception of a few corrupt Emirs and Sheiks, the signatures are generally forgeries, false seals have been used, two specimens of which were shown and offered to me: I believe M. Bourrée transmits them to his Legation. Seals of dead men, and the signatures of living persons, who have signed for, and are the warmest adherents of the Shehabs, have been affixed in numbers to the Turkish petition.

One of the bearers of the petition, Habib Nasif, will tell your Excellency that he saw his own name in the Turkish petition: that he remonstrated, when Gibran Aura, the corrupt secretary of the Seraskier, offered him a gilt sword and a government if he would let it stand; all of which he refused, but the name was not erased, and Nasif has been deprived of his property.

Gibran Aura in many places asks the Christians if they are faithful subjects of the Sultan, and love his rule. The Christians naturally reply in the affirmative; the secretary then writes their names in the petition: in despair the Christians shortly afterwards hear that they have petitioned for Turkish rule, and no other.

Selim and Ali Beys in their tour have shown cleverness in playing the part of impartial persons on the stage, whilst glaring corruption and cruel intimidation were produced behind the scenes by Gibran Aura, their companion and confidential adviser, and the Druse Chiefs.

Thus, at Ibtdeen, whilst they affected to receive the petitions with benevolent impartiality, they were surrounded by the barbarian Sheik Hamoud Abuneked and four hundred Druses. The Christians of Deir-el-Kammar,



bearers of a petition in favour of the Shehabs, when they saw the Beys thus attended, fled; for Abuneked had attacked and burnt all he could of their town; and, moreover, in cold blood, after a solemn agreement, caused the throats of five Christians to be cut at his feet, whose only crime was that they had defended their homes with resolution; and that too in spite of a written promise, that he would respect their properties and lives; he moreover plundered the wretched inhabitants to their shirts.

The same person proceeded to Deir-el-Kammar, vituperated two Maronite Priests, one opposite to his church, and another his convent, cursing their religion, and ordering them to make their parishioners sign the petition in favour of Turkish rule, or be plundered.

This is the person whom Omar Pasha has lately made Governor of Deir-el-Kammar, and to whom is confided the Christian interests there.

The next day the Sheik again ordered the Christians to proceed to Ibte-deen, and on their demurring to do so, he severely beat them, and finally led them, twenty-seven in number, frightened and subdued, to petition the Porte; a disgraceful mockery on the freedom of petition announced by the Turkish authorities.

Every description of bribe to corrupt, and menace to intimidate, the Christians has been used: but I will not weary your Excellency with a continuation of this painful detail.

When Gibran Aura, who has been convicted over and over again of the worst description of peculation, who, a convict in Acre, lost a part of his person from the effects of the corporal punishment inflicted on him for that peculation, is the chief confidential adviser, and Sheik Hamood, the pillager and assassin, with others of his class, the executors of the will of Selim and Ali Beys, your Excellency will be able to understand what has been done, and to estimate at its due proper value the prayer of the Christians of the Lebanon, which Selim and Ali Beys will shortly lay at the feet of the Sultan as the spontaneous expression of their wishes.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

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Inclosure 4 in No. 154.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, July 30, 1842.*

WITH respect to the Greek Antiochians, of whom there are about 20,000 in the Lebanon, they have suffered both in their spiritual and their worldly interests from the jealousy and intolerance of the Maronite interest; consequently they have a mistrust of the Shehabs; still the greater part of them have found out that the advantages of Turkish rule, which they in a manner petitioned for in January, are visionary, and they say, "that the government of the Shehabs would be better than no government at all."

I have had conversations with some respectable Antiochians with respect to this matter; I was told, that if I thought it would please Her Majesty's Government, and if I would express a wish that they should petition for the Shehabs, the greater part of them would do so. I replied, that Her Majesty's Government wished to see all classes of Syrians in possession of equal rights, but that they themselves must best know what was conducive to their interests; but that, as the interests of the Greek Antiochians had suffered under the Shehabs, I would represent the fact to your Excellency, and that I felt assured that your Excellency would be anxious, for the sake of humanity and of peace, to use your influence to ensure, in any arrangement which might take place, the enjoyment of equal rights to the Greek Antiochians.

They appeared much gratified and re-assured by this announcement, and great numbers of the Greek Antiochians signed subsequently the petition in favour of the Shehabs.

The head of the Greek Antiochian convent went to Zahlé, and endeavoured to induce his co-religionists to petition the Beys who were present for Turkish rule, but failed; the Greeks petitioned for the Shehabs, and the clerical emissary was ill received.

A leading Greek has also shown me a statement of the great majority of the Greeks of the district under the Druse Emir Emin Raslan, in which they state their adherence to the Shehabs, and that through intimidation used by that person, they petitioned for the Turkish rule.

All the Greeks of the districts of Kura, Batwan, Kfaeer and Djebail have, by their generalissimo, Father Elias, petitioned the Porte in favour of the Shehabs.

There is no doubt that the Patriarch of the Antiochian church, the Bishops of Beyrout and Akha, near Tripoli, are decidedly against the Shehabs, and I believe that they have signed the petition against them; but on the other hand my latest information is, that the lay members of the Greek church in the Lebanon are very generally in favour of the Shehabs, and vexed with the conduct of their ecclesiastics.

No. 155.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 3.)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, July 26, 1842.*

I HAVE had the honour to communicate to your Lordship, in my report of the 31st of May, the satisfactory termination of the disputes of the Christians and Druses of Anti-Lebanon, and the consent of the latter to the possession of the districts of Hasbeya and Rasheya in hereditary feudal right by the Mahometan branch of the House of Shehab; which arrangement required only the sanction of the Seraskier.

I have now the honour to state that his Excellency having adhered to it, the Emirs Ahmet and Effendi have already left Damascus; the former for Hasbeya, and the latter for Rasheya.

The Emir Said-el-Deen has lost his government of Hasbeya, but I entertain some hopes, now that the hereditary feudal right of the Emirs has been established, that circumstances may favour his or his eldest son's return to their possessions at some future period.

No. 156.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, September 23, 1842.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 25th of June, in which you state that some of the Druse Chiefs now in prison in Beyrout have solicited, through you, the interposition of Her Majesty's Government with the Porte in order to procure their release.

In your despatch of the 8th of April last, in which you reported the treacherous capture of those Chiefs by Omar Pasha, you stated that the feeling of the (Christian) inhabitants of Lebanon in the then critical state of affairs was such that the leading Christians in Beyrout, the members of the Shehab family, Abusumra, the Maronite leader, and others, had tendered their military services to Mustapha Pasha against the Druses, their feeling of revenge and hatred towards them, together with the desire of indemnifying themselves for their losses, having overcome their aversion for the Turks.

Hence, therefore, it appears that at that time, the capture of their old enemies and oppressors the Druses, was by no means unacceptable to the Christian population of the Lebanon; nor am I aware that since that period, although the hatred of the Christians for the Turks has certainly increased, their antipathy for the Druses has undergone any material change, or that the losses which the latter have inflicted upon them, have been indemnified.

Under these circumstances it appears to me, that by interceding in order to procure the liberation of the Druse Chiefs, Her Majesty's Government would be taking a step not in any way calculated to secure the good will of the Christians; and that that liberation might even tend still further to complicate the difficulties which already exist in almost endless abundance in the Mountain.

However much, therefore, Her Majesty's Government might desire, in the abstract, to see those unhappy victims of Turkish treachery restored to their liberty, they consider that it does not behove them to take, at this moment, any official step with the Porte to effect their liberation ; but rather to wait the course of events, which appear now to promise a nearer approach to a general settlement of the whole question of Syrian affairs than could have been anticipated some months since.

You will perceive, that in speaking of the Druse Chiefs, I have made no distinction between those who profess to be willing to favour the establishment of a member of the Shehab family as Governor of the Mountain, and those who do not.

If Her Majesty's Government interceded for one Chief, they must equally intercede for all. Independently of the injustice of a partial intercession, it would also necessarily excite suspicion in the Turkish Government. And, with regard to the professions made by a Druse Chief while in captivity, they must be taken for what such professions are known, from experience, to be worth. It is safer to judge of a man's probable conduct by what it has been when that man was free, than by the promises made during his captivity of what it shall be when he is restored to freedom.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 157.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, September 23, 1842.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 2nd of July, in which you state that you had succeeded in dissuading your Austrian and French colleagues at Beyrout, from taking a prominent part in instigating the Maronites to declare that they had petitioned against the Shehab family under the fear of the Seraskier's displeasure, and to induce both Maronites and Druses to sign a petition in favour of the Shehab family, I have to inform you that I fully approve your conduct on that occasion.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 158.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Damascus, August 18, 1842.*

ALTHOUGH for some time past it was vaguely rumoured that the Druses intended to renew their attack on Zahlé, yet as I did not perceive any immediate cause to apprehend a repetition of the scenes of last winter, I forbore to take any notice of it, until the report assumed consistency from the following circumstances ; namely the distribution of arms and ammunition to them by Omar Pasha ; the withdrawal of the regular troops that were quartered there for the protection of the town ; the almost simultaneous assembly of the principal Druse Sheiks of the Haouran and of the neighbouring districts, on the return of Shibli-el-Arian to this city ; as well as the return of his relatives from Nablous and Hasbeya with their respective troops ; when I thought it not improbable that the Turkish authorities either sanctioned indirectly, or connived at the preparations of the Druses, with the view of intimidating the Christians, or of punishing them for their refusal to sign the petition in favour of the continuance of a Turkish Governor in Lebanon.

The receipt, however, of a letter from the Notables of Zahlé, (a translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith) stating their fears and the precarious state of their position, suggested to me the expediency of appeasing the excitement which the intentions of the Druses, whether well

founded or not, had created, and I addressed in consequence, a letter to Ahmed Pasha (Inclosure No. 2) on the subject, which I directed my Dragoman to deliver to his Excellency, and to impress upon his mind the effect which an attack upon Zahlé would have, at the moment that negotiations were pending at Constantinople on the affairs of Syria, and the embarrassment which it would cause to the Porte.

His Excellency gave me every assurance in reply, that he would not permit Shibli-el-Arian to proceed to Zahlé, but that in the event he persisted in proceeding to Beyrout to see the Seraskier, he would direct him to take the road of Hasbeya, and would send any part of his cavalry to accompany him.

Ahmed Pasha has addressed besides, a bouyourouldi to the Governors of Hasbeya and Rasheya to watch the movements of the Druses, and on no account to permit them to molest the Christians.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

*Minute of a Communication to Mr. Wood from the people of Zahlé.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

August 12, 1842.

THE purport of the present is, in the first place, to acquaint ourselves with the state of your health; and in the second, to convey our regret that, notwithstanding a long lapse of time, we have not been honoured with any of your commands; although we have not ceased, in the interval, to express our grateful thanks for the assistance you have been pleased to afford us heretofore, under circumstances the most painful to us, and fraught with danger.

The report that arms and ammunition have been distributed to the Druses by Omar Pasha, to enable them to renew their attack on our town, has not only gained ground, but unhappily there is little room left to doubt of its correctness.

It is stated, moreover, that on Shibli-el-Arian's return to Damascus, he collected the Druses of the Haouran, and of the neighbouring districts, with the intent of repairing hither to accomplish what he failed to effect before: and that although it may be asserted at your city that these preparations are destined for another object, yet there is no doubt but what they are secretly directed for the purpose stated above.

We implore of you, Sir, in consequence, to communicate to us whatever information you may possess on this matter, particularly in regard to Shibli-el-Arian, that we may avoid in time the disasters that threaten us; together with your opinion as to the conduct it would be advisable for us to pursue in the event of his coming; as well as the remedy we ought to apply to this evil, before its consequences become irreparable.

In reverting to the kind interest you have always been pleased to evince in our behalf, we rely with confidence on your assistance to extricate us, in this instance also, from a truly unhappy and perilous position.

(Signed) NOTABLES OF ZAHLE.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 158.

*Minute of a Communication from Mr. Wood to Ahmed Pasha.*

(Translation.)

August 15, 1842.

IT is now for some time that the inhabitants of Zahlé apprehend an attack from the Druses.

The intelligence they have received of the distribution of arms and ammunition by Omar Pasha to their antagonists, together with the withdrawal of the regular troops from their town, as well as the report that on the return of Shibli-el-Arian to this city, he caused to be assembled the Sheiks of the

Haouran, and of the neighbouring districts, with the intent of concerting measures for the attack of the afore-stated place, has greatly contributed to increase their apprehensions; and they have, in consequence, addressed me a letter expressive of their fears, and requesting me to represent their position to your Excellency, that you may be pleased to interdict Shibli-el-Arian from proceeding to Zahlé under any pretext whatever.

As your Excellency is already aware of the collision that took place between them and the Druses during the administration of Nejib Pasha, and as you cannot be ignorant of the animosity that it has engendered between them, it becomes needless for me to dwell on the consequences that must accrue from the appearance of Shibli-el-Arian in those parts; consequences which cannot but meet with the high disapproval of the Sublime Porte, and of your Excellency, whose aim I feel confident to be the peace and tranquillity of both parties.

I have only therefore to add, that as negotiations are going on at Constantinople on the affairs of Syria, any collision between the Druses and Christians, at this moment, cannot but place the Sublime Porte in an embarrassing position: and I rely with confidence on the zeal and good intentions which animate your Excellency to issue the necessary orders to Shibli-el-Arian not to approach Zahlé.

I am only in expectation of receiving your Excellency's favourable reply to remove the just apprehensions of the people of Zahlé, and to quiet the excitement which they have created.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 159.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 8.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, August 27, 1842.*

I HAVE had the honour to communicate to your Lordship in my despatch of the 4th of June, the removal of Emir Hangiar from the district of Baalbeck, together with the illicit causes which had led to it, as well as my suggestion to Ahmed Pasha, and to the Desterdar Effendi, to repair the fault they had committed.

I have now the honour to state, that the Emir was reinstated yesterday, and that I have taken occasion to-day, on his calling to take leave of me, to intimate to him the propriety of regulating the affairs of his Government in a manner to give satisfaction, not only to the people entrusted to his care, but to the Turkish authorities, among whom, I was sorry to observe, there were some not well disposed towards him.

I recommended to him the greatest moderation and prudence in his acts, by which alone he could escape censure, and prevent complaints from being preferred against him by the peasants, who had a greater claim than he had to the protection of the Turkish authorities, and in whose prosperity we all interested ourselves much more than we did in behalf of any single individual.

I advised him, in matters of importance, not to act hastily, or without a reference first to Ahmed Pasha, whenever it was practicable, when I would use my best endeavours to procure for him such instructions, as would remove from him the weight of personal responsibility, and would procure for him the confidence and good will of his superiors; by which alone I could make my services available to him in future; and I requested of him, moreover, to transmit early any information he might acquire respecting the designs said to be in contemplation by the Druses against Zahlé, that the authorities might have it in their power to take such opportune measures as they may judge proper for the protection of that place.

I regret, however, to have to add respectfully, that the Emir did not appear to entertain the same sentiments of respect and consideration for the Turkish authorities which he did heretofore, but I dare venture to express a hope, that time and mutual services will contribute powerfully to establish that confidence and good understanding which ought to exist between them.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

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*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 8.)*

My Lord,

Damascus, September 5, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to state that the Albanians, who were ordered to march to Nablous, to assist in collecting the public revenue, have received orders to withdraw, and to proceed to the north of Syria, in consequence of which the local Government has decided upon increasing the number of irregular cavalry.

Sheik Said Abdul-al, the civil Governor of Acre, is now here, and has called on me several times to offer an additional sum of £15,000 for the revenues of the districts of Gaza, Jerusalem, Hebron, &c., which are now farmed by Sheik Said-el-Moustapha; but as the severe indisposition of the Defterdar precludes the possibility of my having any communication with his Excellency on the subject, I have requested of him to notify his offer to the Seraskier, for the present.

I have inferred likewise from his conversation, that there does not exist any great cordiality between him and Reshid Pasha, the military Governor of that place.

I have also received the visits of Hussein Mohamed Abdul Hadi, Governor of Djenin, who is here on a charge of having extorted the enormous sum of £15,000 from the peasantry of his district; and of Sheik Hussein, ex-Governor of the Bekaa who has been dismissed from his post, without any apparent cause, and replaced by Osman Bey, a Turkish officer, to whom the Seraskier wished to give a lucrative appointment, without paying any very great attention to his fitness for the situation he has been called upon to fill; but I presume, it must be also a part of the policy of his Excellency to nominate officers of his own, in the room of natives, to all those places which have any connexion with Mount Lebanon.

The Solout Arabs have reappeared in the neighbourhood of the Ledgea, but hitherto they have shown no disposition to give any trouble to the authorities.

I have, &amp;c.,

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

## No. 161.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 11.)*

My Lord,

Beyrout, September 2, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of my despatch of the 30th of August, to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning.

I have, &amp;c.,

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 161.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

Beyrout, August 30, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency, that the policy of Mustapha Pasha has, I regret to say, produced the results which I ventured to anticipate.

On Sunday, the 21st of August, a Maronite Sheik of the Habbeisch family, joint Governor of Gazir, the so-called capital of the Kesrouan, five leagues from Beyrout, proceeded to a place called Fatka, about three miles from Gazir, and arrested a Maronite Sheik of the Deh-Deh family, Chiefs of that district. Habbeisch is one of the Sheiks who with his two brothers has been twice bought by Mustapha Pasha, each time for about ten pounds, and who, in consideration thereof, has signed the various Turkish petitions. This defection has caused him and his associates to be viewed with jealousy and ill-will by the unbought. On the other hand, the seceders, strong in the support of

the Government, gratify their resentment and aggrandize themselves by vexing and oppressing the Shehabite Sheiks.

Habbeisch obtained the order for the arrest of Deh-Deh on the grounds of his "fissad," most comprehensive word, which means corruption and disaffection, but at the present epoch can be translated by adherence to the Shehabs; the real cause of complaint, however, of Habbeisch was, it is said, a private quarrel.

Accompanied by two of the Seraskier's kavasses, Habbeisch arrested Deh-Deh; several of the family adherents of the latter followed the former to his house in Gazir; the prisoners were rescued, and a collision took place, in which three men of the Habbeisch family and one of the Deh-Deh's were killed, and one of the Habbeisch women wounded. In the medley one of the Habbeisch shot his own relation, and another killed his cousin because he had wounded his mother, accidentally it is said. The inhabitants of Gazir, unfriendly to the Habbeischs, their Chiefs, on account of their political conduct, refused to assist them when called on—a fresh proof of Christian feeling.

Late on Monday, the 22nd instant, it was reported to me that the Seraskier, in consequence of what had occurred, intended to send the Albanians at Beyrout to Gazir. There was no time to see the other Consuls, but having met M. d'Adelbourg accidentally, we agreed that it would be desirable to send an interpreter to Mustapha Pasha, to offer friendly counsel as to the impolicy of sending these licentious and undisciplined troops to an excited district. The Seraskier received the advice in very good part, and said that the troops would march that night to Gazir under the orders of Mohamed Pasha, a prudent man; that he would take with him only three hundred Albanians; that the rest would consist of four hundred regular and one hundred irregular horse; and that the Pasha had strict orders to keep the Albanians in subjection.

On this, as on so many previous occasions, what may be called the usual question was asked me, whether resistance should be made to the Turks. I earnestly deprecated it.

On Tuesday, the 23rd instant, the Turkish troops arrived, without any resistance, at Gazir. Provisions and reinforcements have been sent to Gazir, and it is clear that the Turks intend to occupy it. Gazir is an extremely strong military position, situated on one of the lower ranges of mountains in the Kesrouan; it is, in a straight line, not above a mile and a half from the sea-shore, but so difficult is the zig-zag rocky road, generally at an angle of twenty-five or thirty degrees, that a horse only accomplishes the distance in forty minutes. Tracks lead from it to all parts of the Mountain. It commands the coast road from Beyrout by Nahr-el-Kelb, Djouni, and Djebail, to the north of Syria.

The result of the affray at Gazir has been—

1. That the Turks have put in execution a perhaps long-cherished plan, and have occupied the most important point in the Kesrouan; that the Albanians have been sent into the Christian districts of Mount Lebanon in the presence of the foreign ships of war; and that the Turks have for the present gained an accession of physical and moral strength.

2. That two of the Habbeischs, those who avenged the death of the female Habbeisch, have gone on board the French corvette war, the "Créole."

3. That people see that my warnings to them, founded on instructions from the Earl of Aberdeen, that the Turkish authorities would avail themselves of the first cause offered by the Mountaineers, and send the Albanians and troops into the Kesrouan, have been verified.

On Sunday morning a Turkish steamer went to Sidon, embarked four hundred and fifty-three regulars, passed Beyrout, and landed them at Djouni for Gazir. I am glad to say they have relieved some of the Albanians, who have returned to Beyrout. The Seraskier very likely was influenced in this matter by the friendly counsel which M. d'Adelbourg and myself gave him.

In consequence of the persecution of those who had signed the petitions in favour of the Shehabs, I thought it my duty to address friendly counsel to the Seraskier. It did not excite irritation in the Seraskier, although he at first denied the fact. It is contained in the inclosure.



Inclosure 2 in No. 161.

*Instructions to Mr. Assad Kayat, August 24, 1842.*

(Extract.)

TO state to the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, that it is universally stated that Omar Pasha has caused great excitement and alarm in the Mountain, by causing persons to be arrested and beaten with cruelty even to the loss of their senses, because they had signed petitions in favour of the Shehabs, and that he has given indication of intentions to continue this line of conduct. As the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha was pleased to assure the Consuls-General and Consuls, that it was both the wish of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and of His Excellency the Seraskier, that the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon should be at full liberty to address petitions to the Porte in accordance with their wishes, Colonel Rose, as the servant of the most faithful ally of the Sultan, and ever anxious to promote his interests, offers friendly counsel to the Pasha, that it is prejudicial to the interests and authority of His Imperial Majesty that Omar Pasha should commit acts which are at variance with the declarations of the Sublime Porte, and of the Seraskier, and are moreover painful to the humanity.

No. 162.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 8.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, September 4, 1842.*

WITH reference to Mr. Wood's despatch of the 18th of August, I have the honour to say that that gentleman is in mistake in stating, that the regular troops were withdrawn from Zahlé.

The Druses, situated as they are, would never venture to attack Zahlé, occupied as it is by a Turkish Bey and his troops, and that the Turks should give permission to the Druses to attack a town defended by their own troops was impossible; the Consular Agents at Beyrout gave this answer to the repeated and alarming reports which were addressed to them by the people of Zahlé.

Generally speaking, unless the case is one of urgency, the foreign agents avoid as much as possible intervention in favour of the inhabitants, for it excites the ill-will of the Turkish Authorities against them and their Governments; and although they may affect to receive their communications with benignity, they seldom fail sooner or later to revenge themselves on the rayahs, for having committed an offence, capital in their eyes, and mortifying to their vanity, namely, that of seeking foreign counsel, or aid in matters which are certainly purely Turkish.

I regret to say, that Mustapha Bey, Governor of Zahlé, has of late treated the inhabitants with some cruelty. Till the inhabitants signed the petition in favour of the Shehabs his conduct was blameless: latterly, however, he has bastinadoed, and imprisoned many of them for the most trifling causes, and not long since he detained the Bishop of that place a prisoner in his, the Bey's house. These measures so intimidated the Zahléots, that about seventy of them have sent in a petition to the Seraskier, expressing their willingness to be governed by any person, whom the Porte might choose to appoint.

Mohamed Pasha has advanced two hundred Albanians from Gazir to Fatka, the place of residence of the Deh-Dehs, who killed the Habbeischs. The former, and the inhabitants in general, who could do so, have fled. I hear from tolerable authority, that Mustapha Pasha availing himself of the intimidation which he has caused in the Mountain, is circulating two petitions amongst its inhabitants, who are called on to sign it. One states, that the inhabitants signed the petition in favour of the Shehabs, because the Maronite Patriarch threatened to excommunicate them, if they did not do so; and the second declares, that the petitioners are willing to be governed by whomsoever the Porte may be pleased to appoint over them.

The Russian Agent at Latakia has been insulted, and his Dragoman wounded by the Albanians.

Two thousand Albanians have been marched from Latakia to Bagdad, under the orders of Tafil Bey, the best of the Albanian Chiefs, probably against the Persians.

## No. 163.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 3.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, October 7, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that, with the exception of an affray between some Mutualis and the Priests of a Maronite Convent, the public tranquillity remains undisturbed.

The Druse interest remains as hitherto, preponderate, the Christians as depressed. Sarim Effendi has stated to the foreign representatives that Omar Pasha has liquidated twenty-five thousand purses of the claims for plundered property. The plundered Christians and the foreign agents have heard nothing of this liquidation, and this fresh proof of bold misrepresentation by Mustapha and Omar Pasha, is painful; the more so as I yesterday and the day before received information which proves that Omar Pasha has wilfully committed and endeavoured to deceive, if not his own superiors, at least the foreign representatives at Constantinople.

The three great mercantile houses who were plundered of everything in Deir-el-Kammar assure me that there has been no investigation even of their losses. Souza, the richest, states that he has sent four petitions on the subject, but has received no answer.

On the other hand, it appears that lately, there was a mock restoration of land by the Druses, at the request of Omar Pasha, the land restored being estimated at ten times its value: some Christians were forced to sign a statement in the shape of a petition to the Porte to that effect; when, however, they had signed it, and went to take possession of their property, they were driven away by the Druses.

The head of the Maronite Convent at Deir-el-Kammar, estimates his loss at fifty-two thousand piastres, £500—Omar Pasha paid of this four hundred piastres, £4, to his, the superior's, agent, and compelled him, most unwillingly, to sign a receipt, and the opinion of the superior is that the amount of the receipt was increased to the whole debt by altering the ciphers.

The Emir Abdallah, ever prone to run away, could not resist the tendency to do so, when the Turkish troops marched to Gazir. The Authorities now accuse him as one of the principal actors in the affray in which the Habbeischs were killed, two of them by accident: I do not believe it, for the Emir was quietly in his house when the affair took place, and it was a chance medley, a thing of the moment, not the result of a conspiracy; but the Emir fled when he should have remained quiet, and he is now paying the price of his pusillanimity.

The Del-Dels really culpable have also fled: the Seraskier, on pain of the severest punishment, has ordered no convent, or house, or human being to give either them, or the Emir Abdallah, shelter.

Everything considered, I represent with the utmost respect and deference to your Lordship, that it would be conducive to the interests of humanity and of the Sublime Porte, that an amnesty should be granted for all offences committed in the Lebanon since its evacuation by Ibrahim Pasha, with the exception of the attempted assassination of the Turkish officer, and similar cases. A few of the most dangerous of the Druse pillagers might also be excluded from it.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 164.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 8.)*

My Lord,

Beyrout, October 7, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on the 2d instant, a confidential attendant of Sheik Naaman, Youssuf-el-Turk, came to me and communicated to me, by the Sheik's desire, a conversation which had taken place at an interview on the 20th September, between the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha and the five imprisoned Druse chiefs. On their entering, by the Sheik's account, the Seraskier treated him with far more distinction, both in word and manner, than the other chiefs.

His Excellency told Sheik Naaman, whom he made sit near him, that he had "a fine beard," a compliment it appears: and turning to his brother, young Sheik Said, he said, "You are a good soldier, and must go to learn the art of war at Constantinople"; but addressing himself to Sheik Naaman, he added, "You are to stay at home and manage affairs."

To the Emir Ahmed Pasha he said, "You have nothing but a large stomach," meaning that a man who devoted so much attention to good living, could not be very dangerous, and to Sheik Hussein Talhook, "You are an unlucky, or a poor fellow, Mesquin," because the Sheik, in the general pillage, had gained but little.

But the Seraskier made the most serious announcement to Sheik Nasif Abuneked, the great offender so often mentioned by me. he said, "All my intercession in your favour has been in vain or useless." It is not an unreasonable deduction from this conversation—

First. That it is the intention of the Turkish Government, at no very distant period, to set at liberty the Druse Chiefs, with the exception of that dangerous man, Sheik Nasif Abuneked, taking, as a farther precaution against disorder, the measure of removing, in a manner not painful to his feelings, Sheik Said Djinblat from the Lebanon, the scene of his early valour and misdeeds, by attaching him to the Turkish army. Such a measure would be beneficial to Sheik Said, the Lebanon, and the Turkish military, which would gain by this infusion of Druse courage.

Second. That the Turkish Government either wish to cajole Sheik Naaman, or really do intend to give him a position, or place of confidence.

Sheik Naaman's wife is come to Beyrout, and he is allowed to visit her, and all the Druse chiefs, except Sheik Nasif, are allowed to take exercise, even to walk about the town with only one guard. Thus their imprisonment in its character approaches very much the singular description of it given to me at its commencement, by the Seraskier's Greek interpreter, who informed me that the Druse chiefs were only "un petit peu aux arrêts."

Both Sheik Naaman and his brother Said send constantly separate friendly messages to me; they had quarrelled, but are now reconciled, perhaps only apparently. I had strongly advised them to act as brothers towards each other. I hear that Said has now made full submission to Naaman, whose cautious policy will probably succeed. I hear that he has regained very much his influence.

He made earnest appeals to me to lend money, which I told him was impossible.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 165.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 8.)*

My Lord,

Beyrout, October 15, 1842.

IT is with great pain that I inclose to your Lordship a translated extract of a letter from Mr. Catziflis, Vice-Consul at Tripoli.

Since I have received it, further details induce me to believe that the

statement of the Vice-Consul of the Turkish loss is exaggerated, which is stated to have been only eighteen killed and twenty-four wounded.

The deplorable occurrence may produce results most hurtful to the authority of the Sultan, for it can hardly be supposed that the men who could compromise themselves by offering battle to the Ottoman troops, had not fully weighed the consequences of such an act, and had made up their minds to dare and do all.

About three weeks since I traversed the mountainous district called Djebel Btsharri, in which is the scene of the collision, a rocky zig-zag road leading up a mountain side, the crags affording cover for ambush; and I should think that if the inhabitants are as resolute as they are reputed to be, and are true to their cause, they will maintain themselves with ease against the ill-commanded and inferior Turkish force.

I have so often and so strongly had the honour to represent to your Lordship the dangerous and disaffected state of feeling of the Syrian Catholic Christians, that your Lordship, however much you may be pained, will not be surprised at the outbreak of that disaffection which hitherto only fear, and the earnest representations of Her Majesty's servants, and of the foreign agents, who are sincerely well disposed to the maintenance of the Sultan's Government in Syria, have kept in bounds.

Unfortunately, the Tripoli district is, from its distance, very much removed from our influence, and its population is far more resolute and disposed to take advantage of the positions of their mountainous habitations than are the equally disaffected but faint-hearted inhabitants of the Kesrouan, who besides, so often have been restrained by the earnest counsel of myself and others from acts of revolt, when circumstances appeared to promise them success.

Mustapha Pasha's continued great injustice towards the Christians; his ignorance of their feeling, and his contempt of it, when he did know it; his arrogant presumption and fanaticism; have brought about a result which place the authority of the Sultan in greater peril than it has yet been exposed to in Syria since its restoration; and the Porte will entertain regrets, vain regrets perhaps, that she did not listen to the warning voice of the Representatives, who told her the truth, which they had received from the foreign agents in Syria.

Far be it from me to excuse the mountaineers of Djebel Btsharri. I deplore, and condemn their excesses, but all things considered, it would have best suited the Porte to have acted with mercy and compassion, and not persecution and vengeance, towards the Syrian Christians.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure in No. 165.

*Report of Vice-Consul at Tripoli.*

(Translated from the Italian.)

(Extract.)

*Tripoli, October 12, 1842.*

I HASTEN to inform you that, this night, 400 of the Turkish regular soldiers (Stambolini) which we have here, marched in the direction of Eden, it is said for the purpose of arresting the Emir Abdallah who is in those parts; and being about day-break on the ascent of the mountain of Haouran, an hour from Eden, they were attacked by a great number of mountaineers, who waited their arrival. These opened upon them a very brisk fire from every part, which lasted about three hours, with the loss of half of the Constantinopolitans betwixt killed and wounded. On retreating they were followed by the mountaineers to the village of Sgerta, at an hour and a half from this city, where the remaining Constantinopolitans returned in deplorable condition.

It appears they are preparing a second expedition for the same place, of the Albanians, and other irregular troops which we have here, of whose departure I will not fail to acquaint you.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen. - (Received November 8.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, October 20, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, in continuation of my report of the 15th instant, that I hear that the negotiations betwixt the Druses and the Christians for the purpose of acting hostilely against the Turkish Government would have been definitively concluded about the 21st instant, if the occurrence at Khan Hossain had not interrupted them, and revealed the general feeling. They are, however, still in a very advanced state, but it is impossible to tell how far the Turkish Government may not succeed in creating a diversion in their favour by deceit and corruption, unfortunately the only weapons which they wield with success; or by availing themselves of the jealousies of sects.

I have reasons to know that the Druses, as a body, are prepared to go every length against the Turkish Government, and that they contemplate besieging Omar Pasha in Ibtedeen: expediency, and not any lack of hostility, will alone induce them not to put their project into execution.

Omar Pasha, besides disarming the 300 Druses, adherents of Sheik Hamoud Abuneked, has since arrested by stratagem Sheik Hootoor Amad, the best soldier but one amongst the Druses, and his Kiaja for the Druses, his cousin, and all the influential Chiefs he could lay hold of, except one or two, who are still in his service. My predictions, therefore, of the instability of the Turkish-Druse alliance has met with a speedy realization.

With respect to the Maronites, the non-completion of their negotiations with the Druses, probably, and their own intestine divisions and irresolution, alone prevent them from rising, and falling on the rear of Mahomed Pasha, now advanced with about 800 or 1000 men from Mazra to Haddet, the frontier village of the disturbed district of Djebel Btsharri; it is three hours from Btsharri the capital, and a little more than two from the pass of Hainura, the scene of collision of the 11th instant. The Pasha sent for the Sheiks of Haddet, where he halted, and of the surrounding villages. After having guaranteed their liberty, he told them he intended to enter the district of Djebel Btsharri, and arrest the Emir Abdallah and fugitive Deh-Dehs. The Sheiks who came to the conference were attended by 500 men. They told the Turkish Commander that he himself with twenty men might enter their district, but that they could not permit the passage of his troops into it. Mahomed Pasha, when my informant left him, had not attempted to force his passage to Eden and Btsharri, which he will not be able to effect should the resolution of the peasantry be at all equal to the natural obstacles of their rugged and steep mountains.

Mustapha Pasha, aware of the great responsibility which is now thickening so heavily over him, has with the servility and duplicity of character, which is almost as great in him as his pride and presumption, used conciliatory language to the insurgents, who must have wounded his ultra-Mahometan feeling to the quick by the defeat and disgrace which they caused to the Sultan's troops. I am told that they behaved very ill, making a wretched defence, and wounding only three or four of the Mountaineers.

The Seraskier has sent about 800 troops and three light field-pieces by sea and land to Tripoli.

This day a Turkish steamer arrived in five days with 630 men from Constantinople, and another steamer which came in company with her is gone to Sidon.

The present state of affairs and feelings is a fatal blow to Mustapha Pasha, who was ordered to Constantinople "to resume the Seraskieriat, and receive public thanks for his eminent services:" the whole nearly of the Druse Chiefs in prison; such as are not so, in open defiance of his authority, expelling his troops with ignominy from a post station on the public road to Damascus only five leagues from the seat of his power; the district of Djebel Btsharri in arms against his master, and his troops shamefully repulsed with heavy loss by those Christians whom His Excellency has so despised and so harshly treated, whose evidence on oath he rejects, whose lives he estimates at fifty piastres apiece.

The actual state of the country and of affairs prove strikingly the veracity of the foreign agents' reports, and give its just value to the statement of the Turkish Ministers, founded on the reports of the Seraskier, made on the 15th ultimo to Her Majesty's Ambassador. Their Excellencies then insisted "that the tranquillity of the Mountain was in fact restored, and that the present state of things was satisfactory to the great majority of the people."

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

## No. 167.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 8.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, October 2, 1842.*

I RECEIVED this morning a confidential messenger from a Druse Sheik of Lebanon to ask my opinion, whether it would not be advisable, under present circumstances, to quit the mountains and establish themselves in the Druse districts of Haouran and Djebail Haouran.

The messenger went on to state, that a great part of the Druses were dissatisfied with their condition under Omar Pasha, whose vacillating disposition and want of firmness gave full scope to those few chiefs who surrounded him, to administer the country with partiality, and with a view to their own personal interests to the prejudice of others; and that, as the Druses were divided among themselves, such a state of things was likely to be productive, sooner or later, of serious consequences.

I elicited from him that there were feuds of blood between the section of the Druses whom he represented and the House of Amad; in consequence of which they were apprehensive lest the latter would make use of his position and influence with Omar Pasha to ruin them, or embroil them with the Turkish authorities.

As this section of the Druses amounts to about 500 individuals, I have endeavoured to persuade them not to emigrate to any other part of the country at the risk of being ill received by those among whom they intended to settle, who would not abandon, but with reluctance, any part of their native soil to them until the final adjustment of the question of Lebanon, which would render, perhaps, such a decisive step unnecessary, and even ill-judged; but I have given it as my opinion that, if their Chief was afraid of an open rupture between himself and his rivals in power, I could see no objection to his making Damascus his temporary residence.

I have thus far ventured to allude, respectfully, to this subject, as it tends very much to show the discord and mistrust that reign among the Druses themselves, independently of their enmity to the rest of the mountaineers; causes which, if not removed in time, portend but very little future tranquillity.

The messenger, who is himself a Druse Sheik, has assured me that very few of their Chiefs were pleased with their position, since they have discovered that the Turkish authorities were most anxious to play off one party against the other that they may better establish their dominion over all, but that all his countrymen were determined to emigrate and abandon Lebanon, in the event that the Porte meditated their complete subversion.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

## No. 168.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 6.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, October 27, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state, that on the second imprudent arrest by Omar Pasha of the rest of the influential Druse Sheiks, some of them escaped to this Pashalic, in consequence of which, Ahmed Pasha sent Shibli-el-Arian to endeavour to persuade them to come to Damascus in full security.



This individual, who was anxious for an opportunity to withdraw from the city, left on the 21st instant, ostensibly to accomplish his mission but with the firm intention of not returning again, in consequence of which he has also removed from hence his family and effects.

Although he has not declared himself openly a rebel, he has, nevertheless, addressed a letter to the Seraskier and to Ahmed Pasha, as well as to the Effendis and Ulemas of Damascus, stating that, notwithstanding that he had repeatedly defeated the Egyptians, he was pardoned and employed, and subsequently rewarded by them for his services; that he had abandoned them, with the rest of the Syrians, to serve the cause of the Sultan, for which he was first provoked by the officers of the Porte to attack his brothers, the Christians, and had the mortification, afterwards, of seeing the most influential of his countrymen arrested, and himself in danger of being betrayed; that he had withdrawn, in consequence, from Damascus to avoid treachery, and had therefore to propose:—

1st. The immediate liberation of the imprisoned Sheiks.

2dly. The reinstatement of the Shehab family in Mount Lebanon.

3dly. The payment of the arrears due to him by the Egyptians.

4thly. That the revenue of the districts of Hasbeya and Rasheya should be held as "iltizams" by the Emirs Ahmet and Effendi, and that he should have a voice in the appointment of new Governors; and,—

5thly. That the local Government put under his command 2000 irregular horse for the public service, without, however, his being ever obliged to come himself to Damascus.

I have not been able yet to ascertain the reply of the Seraskier to these conditions, but as Shibli-el-Arian does not expect a favourable one himself, he has established his head-quarters at Rasheya, and is making the necessary preparations to act on the defensive, or even on the offensive, as circumstances might require.

I have had the honour of stating, very respectfully, in my report of the 3rd of November last, my humble opinion, that the policy and measures of the Turkish Pashas would, sooner or later, compel the Christians to overlook the treatment they experienced from the Druses, and unite with them in redressing their mutual wrongs; and I have now to add, with some regret, that my apprehensions have been realized—for not only the greater part of the Christians of Mount Lebanon, but those also of Anti-Lebanon, the Haouran, and even some Mutualis have entered the confederation, and Shibli-el-Arian is actually distributing arms, indiscriminately, to the peasants of Hasbeya and Rasheya.

As it was evident from the proceedings of this individual, which I had the honour of noting in my despatch of the 4th of May last, that he would ultimately defy the authority of the Porte's functionaries, and embarrass them by his insubordination, as he did the Egyptians. I had early suggested the propriety of his arrest; which was not followed, however, by Nejib Pasha, who befriended him, for purposes known to himself only, throughout his rebellious career. This is the more unfortunate, as his dexterity, cunning, and personal influence, will enable him now to unite around him all the malcontents, of every denomination, to shake the authority of the Sultan in Syria.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 169.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 6.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, November 5, 1842.*

I HAVE received to-day a letter from Shibli-el-Arian, a translation of which I have the honour of submitting to your Lordship, containing an exposition of the motives which have forced him to withdraw from Damascus, and which appear to be, in the main, the little personal security he enjoyed on account of the treacherous conduct of the Pashas, and the non-fulfilment of the promises which the Porte made to the Syrians at the commencement of the late war.

I believe he has addressed a similar letter in substance to Mr. Merlato, the Austrian Consul.



As I presume his object in writing to the Consuls is to open the way to an accommodation with the Authorities, I have avoided the use of any severe language in my reply; not to deter him from seeking my mediation or to destroy his hopes, which might drive him to commit some rash act, and thus render an adjustment of the affair more difficult and distant.

One of his confidential retainers has called on me after his interview with Ahmet Pasha, from whom I learnt that he was sent to his Excellency to demand 700 purses, the amount of the arrears due to him by the Egyptians, as well as the last five months' pay of his troops, otherwise he would incite the Arabs to molest the caravan to Mecca, and he would himself attack the Turkish troops wherever he found them, and would raise an insurrection even in the city, by destroying all the rich plantations and gardens around it.

Such, and similar threats, had the effect of intimidating the Pasha to the degree of writing to him rather an undignified letter, promising to satisfy all his demands, provided he sent a confidential agent with whom he could confer.

The too great weakness of his Excellency cannot but encourage him in his disobedience, and lead him to form hopes of even greater success than his own daring spirit would otherwise prompt him to entertain.

I will use my utmost exertions to prevent any collision between the people and the Turkish troops, although I am afraid it will not be in my power to hinder both parties from making reprisals in the more distant districts. I will not fail also to represent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, without delay, the pretensions of this individual, in the hope that the Turkish Government may transmit such instructions to Ahmet Pasha as will facilitate an arrangement.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 169.

*Shibli-el-Arian to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Literal Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

November 3, 1842.

AFTER what has recently occurred, it behoves us to represent to your Excellency the zeal and diligence we evinced in the service of the Sublime Porte, by stating that, when the Egyptians possessed themselves of this country in a manner to prevent even the flight of any one, and began to oppress it to the degree of rendering ruin inevitable, we withdrew to the Haouran and sojourned in the Ledgea, from whence we waged war against Ibrahim Pasha, and against his host, as you are well aware of, until the Almighty was pleased to protect us, and give us the victory, after we had despaired of our life as well as of the lives of our cousins and of our children. We incurred the dangers of the war for the period of ten months, without any one to assist or support us, except an all-gracious Providence, with the aid of which we brought great distress on the Egyptian troops every where, so much so, indeed, that he (Ibrahim Pasha) saw himself obliged to grant us amnesty and full pardon, at the moment we were anxiously waiting, but in vain, to be made acquainted with the intentions of the Porte. It was only lately that the rays of her mercy shone upon this country, when all of us hoped that her benevolence and justice would dispel the shadows of the Egyptian tyranny.

At this epoch, we withdrew from the service of Ibrahim Pasha, and repaired to Beyrout, to kiss the hem of the garment of his Highness Izzet Pasha, in compliance with the written and verbal injunctions of your Excellency, whose letters are still in our possession, to which we can refer whenever it may become necessary, and on which we fastened the cord of our hopes, and served accordingly with true zeal, for the honour of the Turkish Government. The Mushirs of Damascus will bear witness to the dangers we incurred in the performance of our duty, which we trusted would have gained for us the approbation of the Porte; for, as we were given to under-

stand by them, that an honourable mention would be made of our services, so in reality we were honoured with a Nishan Ittihar, which gained not only our gratitude, but drew from us and from our nation a voluntary determination to sacrifice even our lives in the service of our Government: that is, in reducing to obedience whoever dared to oppose its mandates, and in befriending those who trusted to its benevolence. We entered into this compact for the object specified above, with a firm resolution and with one heart; for the people were satisfied with the promises and fair words of the officers of the Porte, be it to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon or of Syria in general, until they kindled the fire of dissension between the Druses and the Christians, from which resulted the consequences well known to you, and which it may please God to forgive. Ruin came upon the people; but by an all-wise Providence we were not deceived, and we withdrew to Hasbeya and Rasheya, where we prevented contention between the two nations: and our crime now is our having persuaded them to remain friendly and united.

Soon after we took upon ourselves the military command of the districts of Haouran, Geidour, and Kenneytra, for the purpose of protecting their inhabitants from the predatory excursions of the Arabs, and of conducting safely the Holy Pilgrimage, with the conditions that we should hold the appointment for life; but when the officers of the Porte contemplated the arrest of the principal Chiefs of Lebanon, after having deceived them with the object of dividing the two sects, all security was destroyed, and it became necessary to grant pledges of safety in order to remove the apprehensions of the people. We were also of the number of those who were to be arrested either now or at a future period, but the Almighty, knowing the integrity of our intentions, interposed and saved us.

This arbitrary and unworthy measure has disgusted the whole of the Syrian population, great and small, and has made them relinquish all hopes of future security and safety; for no one desires either to fall into such a snare or to abandon his country.

Where is the security, and where are the promises made to the people that they should enjoy peace and happiness?

As for ourselves we will uphold our honour with our life, neither will we abandon or quit our native soil. Is this in lieu of the moderation and of the benevolence of the Turkish Government which we were assured we should be made to experience?

We beg, therefore, that our services may be made known to the Sublime Porte, as well as the conduct of her functionaries, and in the event we are in the wrong, we submit to be treated according to our deserts, even to the sacrifice of our honour; but on the other hand, should it be that the Pashas have broken not only their faith with us but also their promises, and have ruined the country which no longer confides in them, it behoves the Government to protect its subjects and take their wretched condition into its consideration.

This is the true state of things which we deem it proper to represent.

(Signed) SHIBLI-EL-ARIAN.

#### Inclosure 2 in No. 169.

*Mr. Consul Wood to Shibli-el-Arian.*

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

*Damascus, November 5, 1842.*

I HAVE before me the letter which you did me the honour to write to me relative to your position, as well as that of your countrymen, and I confess with some regret, that it is one of great difficulty and danger, which cannot but be rendered still more so by any attempt to disregard the authority of the officers of the Porte.

The services which you have rendered in the late war to your Government, at my special request, are too distinguished to require any acknowledgment from me; but it would give me serious pain were you to lose the merit which you derive from them by any hasty act: for, whatever may be your complaints against any of the Pashas, you can always hope for redress by a temperate representation of your grievances to his and your superiors.

I will make it an agreeable task to make those services known to your superiors, both here and at Constantinople, by transmitting immediately a copy of your letter to Her Majesty's Ambassador with my observations; but in order to do this, I must first request of you to return to the peaceable execution of your duties; and so soon as you specify to me more particularly what your wishes are, I will not fail to represent them to Ahmed Pasha, and to beg of his Excellency to give them his best consideration.

In the mean time the confidence which you have placed in me makes me ask you, in return, the greatest moderation and circumspection in your acts, in order not to close the door to a speedy accommodation of your differences with the officers of the Porte.

## No. 170.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 6.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, November 6, 1842.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th of October, I have the honour to state that Shibli-el-Arian has assembled in council the Emirs and Sheiks of Hasbeya and Rasheya, to deliberate on the measures they were to adopt in their new position.

Although the whole of their plans have not yet transpired, it is, nevertheless, certain that Shibli-el-Arian has addressed letters to the Sheiks of the Haouran, Ledgea, of Akalim-el-Bilan, and of the Arabs on the road to Mecca, to invite them to join him in liberating their arrested chiefs, and in resisting the arbitrary conduct of the Porte's officers in Syria.

He is actually employed in procuring the greatest possible quantity of grain, of arms, and of ammunition; and such is the apathy of the authorities, that he even succeeded in removing from his house in Damascus, some packages of powder he had left behind.

Immediately on the return of Ahmed Pasha from Beyrout, he dispatched circular letters to the native Governors of the surrounding country, as well as to the Arabs of the Ledgea, to direct them not to receive Shibli-el-Arian in their districts, or to allow his agents to influence the conduct of the people; but as the greater part of them are opposed to the local Government, it is not probable his Excellency's injunctions will meet with a ready compliance.

The dread which the authorities have of this individual, has induced Ali Pasha to send Hassan Aga to him ostensibly with the present of a shawl, but, in reality, to endeavour to persuade him to return to this city and resume his regular duties, which he peremptorily refused to do.

As a further inducement to divert him from his purpose, it is said, that an offer was made to him to increase the number of irregular troops under his command, provided he did not interfere in the affairs of Mount Lebanon, which was not comprised in this Pashalic.

Nevertheless, he still adheres to his intention of forcing the Porte by an insurrectionary movement, to change its policy in this country, and to effect a change in its administration more suitable to the wants and temper of the people.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

## No. 171.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 6.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 3, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copies of my despatches of the 25th and 28th of October, to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning.

With reference to the former I have the honour to say, that the Christian inhabitants of the Lebanon do not certainly appreciate, as they should do, the interest

shewn in their behalf by the Powers. They do not, or do not choose to reflect, that if it had not been for the check placed on the Turks by the known wishes of the Powers, and the presence of their servants in Syria, they would have been subjected to the pitiless vengeance of their Ottoman rulers, that the name of Christian in Syria would probably only have existed as a by-word; still the exaggerated opinion which they unfortunately entertain of the interest which they excite in Europe, and of their own merits, the miseries caused them by the civil war, planned by the Turkish Government and executed by the Druses, the fanatical injustice of Mustapha Pasha, make them think only of what they are, not of what they might have been.

They shut their eyes to one main cause of all their misfortunes, whether they be Druses or Christians, their own restless spirit of change and intrigue, their never-ending jealousies and hatreds.

On the other hand, in strict justice I must say, that the persecution of the Christians by Mustapha and Omar Pashas, because they had declared their sentiments in favour of Christian rule, when they had been told that they might, and were even desired to do so, was cruel and impolitic. Both these functionaries gratified on that occasion the rancour of little and vindictive minds.

It was the ill-judged conduct of the Seraskier in this respect, which brought on the fatal affray at Gazir, the crime of the adherent of the Deh-Dehs, whose arrest gave rise to it, having been said that he had been actively engaged in getting up petitions for the Shehabs.

Hitherto, on occasions too numerous to be enumerated, the exhortations of Her Majesty's servants to the Lebanites to be peaceful and submissive have been unceasing and effectual, except on those occasions when the Seraskier, by his own presumptuous rashness, brought about occurrences which have shaken his master's authority. The counsel was good for many reasons, not the least of which was, that it tended to prevent an outbreak which would have called into play the worst passions of the Turks, to deprive them of an excuse for violence and oppression; but now the outbreak has taken place, both parties may be said to be committed.

As I had the honour to observe to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in my despatch, affairs are materially changed since a disarmament has been announced and partially commenced, since blood has been spilt, and the Turkish troops twice routed, at Hairuna on the 11th, and Khan Hossein on the 17th ultimo.

Advice then to the mountaineers under present circumstances to be submissive, entails the responsibility on the adviser of all the peculiar means which may be used to re-establish Turkish supremacy, and to gratify Turkish revenge.

Passiveness, then, non-intervention, it is my most respectful opinion would be safer than to give advice to two parties, where only one of them accepts, and conforms to the policy which dictates that advice, but the other sets it at naught, and acts in opposition to it; for the Turkish authorities have acted, and continue to act diametrically in opposition to the declared wishes and advice of the Powers.

By their wilful attempt to extend their direct authority over the Lebanon, they have given a blow, perhaps a fatal one, to that authority.

It may be said there is no chance of a disarmament. It is true; but what is the cause? The hostile acts and attitude of the mountaineers. It is deferred, but not abandoned. Then if the foreign agents by their persuasions cause those hostile acts to cease, or diminish the strength of the position of the mountaineers, then most assuredly will follow the arrest of the Christian, and of such of the Druse Chiefs as are at liberty, and disarmament, and conscription, and the gratification of Ottoman vengeance. Then, if we continue to counsel as before, will fall the moral responsibility on those whose advice will have given scope to treacherous oppression without ensuring subsequent relief from it, and the reproaches of a people must be felt, who will say, "You gave us arms to rescue us from the tyranny of Ibrahim Pasha, and now by your advice you have deprived us of them, when they would have protected us from a Government whose corruption and injustice during eighteen months' rule have caused us to regret even Ibrahim Pasha." For Ibrahim Pasha, unlike the Turks, respected and exalted the name of the Christians, allowed their oaths to be taken against a Mussulman, and his justice, although that of a barbarian, was still justice.

In the excitement of the struggle in 1840, I have often had the honour to represent, that promises of a great amelioration of government were held out to

the Syrians by Her Majesty's servants, and that the hope in the realization of those promises was one of the main inducements with the people to second the policy of Great Britain, and rise against the Egyptian Government.

But since I have had the honour to serve Her Majesty in Syria, I am bound to say that I have seen no appearance of amelioration, but, on the contrary, a marked deterioration of government in Syria. Pasha has succeeded Pasha, and Defterdar has rapidly followed Defterdar, but their conduct, perhaps with a solitary exception, has only exhibited a variety of injustice, and different shades of venality.

For these reasons I venture to state, with profound respect to your Lordship that, from a local knowledge of men and affairs here, and because I know that your Lordship values and considers the unvarying respect which is paid to the honour of the British Government as a good beyond every other good, it is my opinion that it would be desirable in the present almost hopeless confusion of affairs, that Her Majesty's servants should for the future be passive spectators of events, unless the Porte and her servants in Syria should adopt a better policy, and enable Her Majesty's servants to give advice, which, whilst it would tend to uphold the Sultan's authority in Syria, would at the same time further the interests of humanity, and be analogous to the position which Great Britain holds with respect to the Syrians.

The Turks then, unless they meet with some reverse, already impending by a thread over them, will follow their infatuated course. They will continue to excite Druses against Christians, and in case of extreme need, Christians against Druses; they will give the most fanatical interpretation to the fanatical law of the Koran; they will repeat all the various acts of misgovernment which they can, and do commit, but the responsibility will rest where it ought to rest, on them.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, October 25, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency, that M. d'Adelbourg informed me that the Seraskier had stated a few nights ago, that it was his intention to disarm the Mountain. Three hundred Druses were disarmed on the 11th instant, and the move of troops in different directions, the arrests of the Druse Chiefs, confirmed this announcement, and the worst fears of the Mountaineers.

The dread of disarmament by both Druses and Christians is universal; they look upon it as the proof of their entire subjugation to a Government of which it would be difficult to tell whether their mistrust or aversion is the greatest; they consider it as the cutting off hope, as they call it.

Under these circumstances M. d'Adelbourg and myself, after attentive and mature consideration of the state of affairs, came to the resolution that we had better decline for the present giving advice to the Mountaineers as to their conduct.

Acting, therefore, in this sense, we maintained silence when some of the usual emissaries of the inhabitants visited us, except that we distinctly refused to accede to their request to sanction an union betwixt the Maronites and Druses, for the purpose of acting hostilely towards the Turks.

M. de Wildenbruch, not instructed as we are, still felt that the confusion of affairs was so complete, and so great would be the moral responsibility of giving advice to the inhabitants, that he has stated his intention of observing a strict neutrality. M. Bourrée, the French Consul, has done the same.

I have the honour to observe to your Excellency, that since the affairs of Hairuna on the 11th instant, Khan Hossein on the 17th, the disarmament of three hundred Druses, and the arrest of the Druse Chiefs, the position of the Foreign Agents is quite changed. Both Druses and Christians are now committed, the more so because the Turks must know that both these sects, with a few exceptions, have done their best to unite in hostility against them, and that the dread that one sect would abandon the other, is the only consideration that has prevented both of them from so doing.

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The Christian agents in Constantinople have already made their party acquainted with the propositions offered by the Powers to the Porte, and the refusal of the latter to accede to them. Little hope is held out from the same quarter of any change of determination on the part of the Porte, and the people here are told that the Powers are not united in reality. I merely tell your Excellency not what ought to be, but what is believed by the Mountaineers, and what creates in them a feeling of despair.

The Christian inhabitants already, I hear, reproach the Foreign Agents with having perpetually exhorted them to patience, and with having prevailed on them to refrain from acts of hostility, which might have given evidence of their real state of feeling, and bettered their condition. They say, "You induce us to be obedient to the Sultan, but do you induce his authorities to treat us with indulgence, or with common justice? You do not mediate, because your influence is one-sided. You hold our hands, but you cannot prevent the Turks from striking us. We have waited too long, we are further off than ever from our object."

Under all the circumstances of the case, and should even the idea of the disarmament be given up, I have the honour to submit my most respectful request to your Excellency, that it would be very desirable that I should be furnished with fresh instructions; and as I think that the continuation of advice to the inhabitants of Lebanon to be submissive to the Turkish authority in this country would be useless, and in a measure compromise the sincerity or good intention of the advice, I beg leave to suggest that it would be desirable that I should be passive, unless indeed in those circumstances where I could mediate successfully betwixt the rulers and the ruled.

However anxious we, the Consular Agents, have been to tender friendly and well-meant advice to Mustapha Pasha, he, guided by his haughty temper, and the secret orders of his Government, has not acted upon it. His object and policy has been to reject all foreign influence or intervention of any nature. He has, it is true, made promises to us, but he has never kept them. He has trusted to his own talent, the influence of his Government, and Mahometanism. The Foreign Agents have had only an illusory influence as regards Syrian affairs with Mustapha Pasha, or with those who are guided by him.

M. d'Adelbourg writes in the same sense to M. de Kletzl.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, October 28, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency copy of a translation of a letter signed by ten Druse Chiefs, all, in short, of the influential leaders who have not been arrested. Amongst them was the Emir Emin Raslan, the confidant of the Seraskier, so often mentioned by me, and actually sent by the Seraskier at the time on a mission to the Mountain to induce the Druses to return to their allegiance, six members of the Abd-el-Melek family, and three Talhooks.

The letter is meant to be an appeal and an invitation to the Christians to join the Druses in making war against the Turks, and it is further intended to serve as a guarantee to the Christians that they, the Druses, are ready to commit themselves to that extent, inasmuch as they seal it with their names, which the Druses never do unless they are determined to go every length.

A verbal communication has been made by the Christian influential popular party, grounded on one from the Druse Chiefs to the Emir Kais Shehab, son of the Emir Melkem, to know whether he would place himself at the head of the united Maronites and Druses, proclaiming himself Prince of the Mountain, *ad interim*, or his cousin, the Emir Faris Shehab, till one of the Ex-Emir's family could come from Constantinople to assume the command, and further besieging, or rather investing, Omar Pasha in Ibtdeen.

The Emir Kais answered that he would do all this, provided the house of Beit Lemma, a powerful Maronite house in the Meten, would agree to support the league.



The answer returned yesterday from the Emirs of Beit Lemma. It stated that they did not advise the Emir Kais to place himself at the head of the movement, as it would compromise the interests of the Shehabs. To-day the same informant tells me that another message was sent to the Emirs of Beit Lemma by the Druses, to know whether, in the event of their, the Druses, rising against the Turks, they would remain neutral.

On the 24th another person came to me, and told me that he had been sent with three messages to the Druses by the Christians at the last meeting. He met, as one of the Druse party, the Emir Emin Raslan, the Turkish functionary. The plan of attack on the Turks was debated, and it was resolved to occupy the three principal roads leading from Ibtedeen and Deir-el-Kammar, cut off the water, and thus blockade Omar Pasha in Ibtedeen.

The Druses in the last interview stipulated that the Emir Melkem, as the leading Maronite, should place himself, with his son, at the head of the movement; the Emir Melkem required that the Druses should write a letter to that effect to him, which he would be at liberty to shew to the Turkish Government, in the event of their, the Druses, abandoning him. Thus again, as in all their negotiations, mutual mistrust, and a want of nerve in the Maronites, are the sole obstacles to a defensive and offensive alliance against the Turkish Government.

I hear that several Druse Sheiks, having placed their harems and goods out of the way, have collected in Betater round Abd-el-Melek.

The last answer of this Chief, on the 26th, to an emissary sent to him by the Seraskier, with a demand that he should dismiss his force, was, "Nothing but powder and ball; let me alone and I will let you alone; but if you come to take me I will fight you."

What a contrast is not this language, as well as the affairs of Hairuna and Khan Hossein, and the general hostile state and feeling of the Mountain, with the language held to your Excellency and your colleagues on the 15th ultimo, by the Turkish Ministers! How have not events proved the truth of the reports of the Foreign Consuls, and the delusion of those of the Turkish Officers; but the blind policy of the Porte, and the wicked infatuation and presumption of Mustapha Pasha, have brought the affairs of the Lebanon and the authority of the Sultan to the present critical pass.

The Porte can only blame herself and her advisers; for never was a Power more eloquently and wisely counselled, and never was honest counsel less profited by.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 171.

*Translation of a letter from ten Druse Chiefs, now at liberty, to the Christians of Mount Lebanon.*

WE set forth that your noble Lordships are not ignorant of what took place touching the arrest of your servants, the principal persons of the country, without crime or fault, the march of troops on the districts of Kesrouan, and of Gibbet, and the destruction of those places to which they proceed.

Now all that occurs relates to the country, which is your property, and the property of their Lordships, our ancestors of blessed memory.

We hope, therefore, that zeal will animate you, and that you will arise to effect this great good, and that you will honour us by coming to us; and all the land is linked together for your service, shedding their blood, and giving all their worldly goods for you, and they will not be satisfied with any Emirat or Government except that of your Lordships; and, by the aid of God, and your patronage, we are all of us powerful and numerous, and lent to your service, and may God preserve you all.

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*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 11.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, November 5, 1842.*

I REGRET to say that Omar Pasha has confiscated the whole of the property of Naaman Djinblat, and of his brothers Sheik Said and Ishmael. Omar Pasha has caused their horses and mules to be brought to Ibtedeen, and arrested their agent, the Emir Omad Raslan. After ten days he liberated him, telling him, "that if he paid a para of his property to any body but himself, he would cut his head off." He has placed his seal on the house, furniture, and other property of the family. In short, that ancient and opulent family, the head of the Druses, is completely ruined.

I have thought it my duty to submit this occurrence without delay to your Lordship.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 6.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 7, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that Shibli-el-Arian has addressed a letter to Assaad Pasha, in which he says, "I am the servant of the Government, and went from Damascus to see what was the trouble amongst the Druses, and I saw that the Druses in Hasbeya, Rasheya, and Syria were conspired against the Government, because they took their chiefs, and the Druses intend to cut off, or block up the roads. The Druses then wish your Excellency to set their chiefs free, and to restore to us our ancient customs; and I again advise you to set the Druse chiefs at liberty."

Assaad Pasha replied, cautioning Shibli-el-Arian not to mix in the affairs of the Government, and to be silent.

I understand that the Druse leader sent the following laconic answer to this communication:—"I have the honour to tell your Excellency, that I renounce my obedience to the Government."

His subsequent conduct is, and will continue to be analogous to this declaration. He is assembling a force of Druses and Christians from the Haouran, the districts of Hasbeya and Rasheya, from which he wrote his last letter to the Pasha, with the intention of moving on Mooktara, and investing Ibtedeen with about 800 or 1000 men, half of which are horse.

A letter has been received by Youssuff Abd-el-Melek, in Betater, from Shibli-el-Arian, saying that he would arrive on the 8th or 9th instant at Mooktara, the seat of the Djinblats, two hours from Deir-el-Kammar, with his force.

Fresh Druses and some Christians from the Meten have now joined at Betater Youssuff Abd-el-Melek, whose force is estimated at 1200 or 1500 men.

A strong body of Druses, from Betater, watch the Pass of Djesr-el-Kadi, so often mentioned by me last year, on the direct road from Beyrout to Deir-el-Kammar.

About the 8th, 500 Druses are to arrive at Kfer-Nebrook, one hour from Ibtedeen and one hour from Barook, for the purpose of cutting off the water from Ibtedeen and Deir-el-Kammar. All the passes but one from those places to the sea are cut off.

All the inferior Sheiks, except one, and their adherents in the Turkish service, have now left Omar Pasha, and the Druse people, bold and bitter in heart, will collect round Ibtedeen, and try the chances of war. Omar Pasha is a good officer, and his troops are in very good order; but he will find it most difficult to keep open his communications with the sea through the winter, and get supplies. Ten days ago he had only thirty days' provision.

It seems that the water which supplies the mills at Ibtedeen can be cut off at Kfer-Nebrook, three miles from the palace. There is another spring which supplies the palaces and Deir-el-Kammar with drinking-water; but the Druses

do not like to cut this water off, as it would set the Christians of the town, who are already not well disposed in their favour, against them.

With the exception of Ibtemeen, now the object of the attack and attention of the Druses, the Turks may be said to have retired from the Mountain, for,—

1. To the north, the Ottoman troops were expelled on the 11th ultimo, with loss, from the district of Djebel Btsharri.

2. To the south, they have abandoned Gazir, a stronghold on the borders of the Kesrouan, not having thought it prudent to re-occupy it with the troops who were detached from it (Gazir), to subjugate the insurgent district of Djebel Btsharri, from which part of the force, four hundred Albanians, have returned to this place. Part went to Zahlé, and a few regulars remained in Haddet, where their position is insecure.

On the 17th ultimo, detachments were driven from Khan Hossein, fifteen miles from Beyrout. It has not since been occupied.

No Turkish troops are now in any other part of the Mount Lebanon, except Zahlé, which must be considered in the valley of the Bekaa, and Ibtemeen. Half of the Turkish troops, in all about three thousand men, are in the town of Deir-el-Kammar, and half in a series of palaces belonging to the Ex-Emir Beshir and his sons, situated on hill, or mountain-tops, one above the other. The Druses will cut off the communications betwixt the palaces and the town, and these places and the sea.

If Omar Pasha is reduced to a purely defensive position, and must go out with his force every time he wishes to get provisions from Sidon, meet them, and fight with the Druses, his tenure of his position is so uncertain, that he had better save his Government the reasonable chances of a defeat, and retire. Omar Pasha, a foreigner, is the only main stay of the Turkish military power in the Lebanon.

I understand that the Turkish troops have been withdrawn from Haddet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

#### No. 174.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 6.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 9, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that since the successful attack of the Turkish detachment at Khan Hossein, on the 17th ultimo, the Druse chief, Abd-el-Melek, has occupied, militarily, so much of the Beyrout and Damascus road as lies in the Mountain of the Lebanon, patrolling it with his adherents in order to prevent his surprise, and to intercept the Turkish communications betwixt Beyrout and Damascus.

The result of this has been,

1st. That the Druses have taken the horses from the detached Turkish horsemen who watched Abd-el-Melek, as well as from the Turkish post, which has been repeatedly deprived of its letters; but they allow the English post to pass with expressions of their good will.

2ndly. That on the 30th ultimo, forty Turkish horsemen, who were sent from Beyrout to reconnoitre the state of the Damascus road, were made prisoners, disarmed, and sent to Youssuff Abd-el-Melek, who released them.

3rdly. That Ahmet Pasha of Damascus, who had come to Beyrout to compliment Assaad Pasha, was obliged to return by a circuitous route to Damascus, after various fruitless attempts to negotiate a passage for himself by the direct road.

On the 29th ultimo, the Druse Sheiks arrested lately by Omar Pasha arrived here, via Sidon. On the night of this day, Assaad Pasha saw the whole of the imprisoned Druse chiefs, and told them, that if they made any attempts to excite the country outside, he would cut their heads off.

At the beginning of this month, Sheik Butruss Kerame, the leading Sheik of Djebel Btsharri, arrived here, Mohamed Pasha having persuaded him to come to Tripoli, assuring him that he incurred no risk. On his arrival, however, he found that he was a prisoner.

The Turkish authorities acted with still greater duplicity towards three other

Christian Sheiks of the same district, whom they had requested to act as safe conduct and guides to the troops who returned from Haddet to Zahlé. On their arrival, they were treacherously seized, and placed in prison.

The negotiations are still carried on with appearances of success betwixt the Druses and Christians. The latter demand that the Druses should strike or attack the Turks first, as a guarantee of their good faith. The Druses answered that they would do so three times. The Christians answered, "Do so once, and strike at Ibtdeen."

It is very doubtful whether the Maronites will remain true to the Druses when they are once committed in warfare. Corruption has already made them act treacherously towards their co-religionists; probably this, and similar temptation would induce them to act in a similar manner towards their ancient enemies.

The state of the country is that a great part of the road between Beyrout and Damascus is in the hands of the Druses, who declare their hostility to the Government; that no satisfaction has been obtained for the two attacks on the Sultan's troops, and that the Turkish Government have been obliged to abandon the two objects which were to have been attained by the march of those defeated troops; that the Druse chief, Abd-el-Melek, commanding the Damascus road, has several times, by his word and acts, defied the Turkish Government, and that another powerful and daring chief, Shibli-el-Arian, who in the Haouran defeated the military power of Ibrahim Pasha, has renounced his allegiance, and declared his intention of attacking the Turkish Government; that the Druses have declared their plan of besieging the Pasha Omar, commanding in the Mountain, and compelling him to leave it; that the Christians show strong indication of remaining neutral, to which point the Druses have reduced their demand.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

#### No. 175.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 6.)*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, November 9, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on reflecting on the critical state of affairs, and the probability that events would shortly occur which would occasion a great loss of life, and be moreover most prejudicial to the authority of the Sultan, I conceived that I should be acting in conformity with your Lordship's wishes by seeing Assaad Pasha, the chief Turkish authority in Syria, and by the late ordinances Governor of Mount Lebanon, and Pasha of Sidon and Tripoli, and by ascertaining whether or not he intended to follow the unfortunate policy of his predecessor the Seraskier; for if he did, the fact was ascertained, and if he did not, I thought that I might be of some service, perhaps, in staying, by counsel founded on your Lordship's instructions, the occurrence of lamentable events.

Besides, I was anxious to open the way to a more friendly state of relations with the new functionary; if he closed it, with him lay the fault, as with Mustapha Pasha. I thought the time, moreover, favourable, for the Turks are never so practicable as when they are in distress.

I asked M. d'Adelbourg to accompany me, which he was so good as to do. We found Assaad Pasha very courteously disposed.

We observed to his Excellency that the English packet was going the next day to Alexandria, that there were many reports as to the state of the country, and that we were desirous of obtaining information as to the true state of affairs from the supreme authority in Syria, before writing on such grave matters to our respective Governments.

Assaad Pasha then said that many false reports were current respecting affairs, that the communication by the Damascus road was not cut off, although he admitted that there might have been interruptions: that there was a good deal of fear and agitation amongst the Mountaineers, but that it should be his aim to calm and pacify that fear; that with that view he had made a conciliatory com-

munication to the Mountaineers, directing their chiefs, moreover, to come to Beyrout, there to state and settle their respective grievances; that he thought that Youssuff Abd-el-Melek, the Druse, would come also.

At the same time, his Excellency stated that measures were taken by the Seraskier, he dare say with good intentions, but with which he had caused great alarm and agitation in the Mountain, and that unpleasant occurrences had taken place near Tripoli, and at Khan Hossein; further, that serious events might take place, in which case he would give immediate notice to his Government, and demand further orders; but that in any case he would not make war in or send troops to the Mountain, or cut off heads. He asked our co-operation in restoring confidence in the Government, and in contradicting false reports.

M. d'Adelbourg and myself made, in the most amicable terms, the answer which appeared most convenient. We highly extolled the prudent and moderate intentions of his Excellency, and the reference of matters to Constantinople, and pointed out to him, that if he submitted without delay the state of the country to his Government, he would divest himself of a responsibility which in no way belonged to him, and, besides, best discharge his duty to his Government, and to himself.

The impression produced on us by the conversation was,—

First, that Assaad Pasha disguised the true state of affairs; that he felt that the state of the country was alarming, and that he apprehended serious occurrences. The idea that Youssuff Abd-el-Melek would come to Beyrout was improbable.

Secondly, that he blamed the Seraskier for his conduct, and attributed to it the present state of the country.

Yesterday, Assaad Pasha's interpreter came to me; I was not at home, and he went on to M. d'Adelbourg, but returned, and told me that Assaad Pasha had sent him to M. d'Adelbourg and myself, to inform us that he had received yesterday and to-day communications from Omar Pasha, which stated that five hundred Druses had risen yesterday, and moved towards Ibtdeen, with the intention of attacking it. He demanded instructions from him, Assaad Pasha, stating that the state of affairs was such, that if he, Assaad Pasha, could not quiet the Druses by negotiations, he must come with all the force he could collect, and fight them. Assaad Pasha asked our advice.

The Pasha's interpreter spoke as if his Excellency despaired of a successful defence of Ibtdeen; and his manner and words indicated great alarm on the part of his chief.

M. d'Adelbourg, who had come in, then informed the Pasha's interpreter that we would give him our answer without delay.

After having consulted, M. d'Adelbourg and myself addressed, without delay, a letter to Assaad Pasha, of which I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy.

I venture to observe, that the letter is a very important document, not for its own merits, for they are nought, but because it proves,—

First, the very dangerous state of affairs as announced by the two chief Turkish authorities in Syria.

Secondly, the circumstances which called forth this letter are the best answer to Mustapha Pasha's assertions as to the tranquillity of the Mountain.

The important consideration on which the possession of Ibtdeen now rests is, whether Omar Pasha can keep open the communication for supplies during the winter; if he cannot, he must retire. The Druses without artillery cannot take Ibtdeen, but they may blockade it.

Omar Pasha has with him two light field pieces of two oaks, or five-pounders; four battalions of infantry, which will give 2000 men, perhaps 2400 men. There are, besides, about 150 cavalry; altogether, it may be called 2600 men.

The direct road from Ibtdeen to Beyrout is very difficult, and could be cut off; the one to Sidon is generally good, with a few passes. Sidon is sixteen miles from Ibtdeen, and of course the passage of convoys through a hostile country in the winter season would be most difficult, and hazardous.

M. d'Adelbourg and myself are both of opinion that Omar Pasha had better leave the Mountain.

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Inclosure in No. 175.

*Colonel Rose and M d'Adelbourg to Assaad Pasha.*

Illustre Pacha,

Beyrout, 3 Novembre, 1842.

LES Soussignés ont compris la communication confidentielle que votre Excellence leur a fait l'honneur de leur adresser par l'organe de son interprète.

Cette communication portait que, d'après un rapport d'Omar Pacha, les Druses, au nombre de 500, se sont approchés de Deir-el-Kammar et de Btidine, manifestant une intention d'attaquer le Pacha à Btidine, et que ce dernier a demandé du secours et des instructions de la part de votre Excellence ; que votre Excellence s'est empressée de députer vers les insurgés le Sieur Fataha, Gouverneur civil de Beyrout, porteur d'un bouyourouldi conçu dans des termes pacificateurs et rassurans, et accompagné d'un certain nombre de troupes. Que dans le cas où les Druses se porteraient néanmoins à des voies de fait, les troupes Ottomanes avaient l'ordre de se défendre ; qu'enfin que votre Excellence désirait connaître notre manière de penser dans une conjoncture si grave, pleine de confiance dans l'amitié si heureusement subsistante entre nos Gouvernemens respectifs, et connaissant parfaitement la loyauté des sentimens qui nous animent pour les intérêts du Sultan son gracieux Maître.

Sensibles à la marque flatteuse de confiance que votre Excellence a bien voulu nous témoigner, et des intentions aussi sages qui modérées de votre Excellence, les Soussignés se sont réunis, et après avoir pesé scrupuleusement toutes les circonstances, ils ont l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence de ce qu'eux de leur côté ils sont tombés d'accord sur les points suivans, savoir :

1°. Le but le plus essentiel à atteindre est celui de prévenir l'effusion de sang, d'éviter un choc qui pourrait nuire à l'autorité Ottomane.

Pour atteindre ce but il conviendrait de faire demander aux Druses le motif de leur soulèvement ; leur permettre d'exposer dans une supplique respectueuse leurs désirs ; leur promettre que leur supplique sera immédiatement transmise à Constantinople et portée à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse ; leur promettre que les ordres gracieux de Sa Hautesse leur seront communiqués dans son tems ; les engager à se retirer, à attendre la décision souveraine, et à s'abstenir de toute acte d'hostilité ; enfin, ordonner à Omar Pacha de s'abstenir également de toute opération hostile, excepté le cas qu'il serait attaqué, et forcé de se défendre.

2°. Un second point moins important est celui de prévenir l'anéantissement ou la défaite des troupes Ottomanes.

A cet effet il conviendrait de demander à Omar Pacha un rapport secret qui indiquerait nettement, et sous sa responsabilité, si les troupes Ottomanes pourront tenir la Montagne, dans le cas d'une révolte générale, et supposant que l'eau et les provisions leur fussent coupés.

Dans le cas qu'Omar Pacha, après avoir consulté un conseil de guerre, trouverait impossible de résister, il vaudrait mieux de lui ordonner la retraite sous quelque prétexte plausible.

3°. Il est de la plus haute importance que votre Excellence informe sans délai la Sublime Porte de l'état des choses au Liban, de l'agitation qui y règne, des mesures provisoirement prises, et des résultats provisoirement obtenus ; à cet effet, il sera utile de transmettre copie des rapports d'Omar Pacha.

4°. Enfin, votre Excellence rendra un véritable service à son Gouvernement en lui demandant des instructions précises sur la marche ultérieure à suivre dans la question du Liban.

Quant aux Soussignés, ils écriront dans ce sens à leurs Excellences les Ministres à Constantinople, et à leurs Gouvernemens respectifs.

Telle est l'opinion des Soussignés, qu'ils s'empressent d'exposer à votre Excellence conformément à l'esprit des instructions dont ils se trouvent munis, en la priant de vouloir bien agréer l'expression de leur très-haute considération.

(Signé)

HUGH ROSE.

E. D'ADELBOURG.

(Translation.)

Illustrious Pasha,

*Beyrout, November 9, 1842.*

THE Undersigned have understood the confidential communication which your Excellency did them the honour to address to them through the medium of your interpreter.

This communication purported that, according to a report of Omar Pasha, the Druses to the number of 500, had approached Deir-el-Kammar and Ibtedeen, showing an intention to attack the Pasha at Ibtedeen, and that the latter had asked succour and instructions from your Excellency; that your Excellency hastened to dispatch against the insurgents the Sieur Fataha, Civil Governor of Beyrout, bearer of a bouyourouldi drawn up in peaceful and encouraging terms, and accompanied by a certain number of troops. That in case the Druses should nevertheless proceed to hostilities, the Ottoman troops had orders to defend themselves; that in short, your Excellency, fully relying on the friendship so happily existing between our respective Governments, and being perfectly aware of the sincerity of the sentiments which animate us for the interests of the Sultan, your gracious master, desired to know our opinion in so important a state of things.

Sensible of the flattering mark of confidence which your Excellency has been good enough to show us, and of your Excellency's wise as well as moderate intentions, the Undersigned have met together, and after having carefully weighed all the circumstances, they have the honour to inform your Excellency of what they have agreed upon as regards the following points, viz. :

1st. The most essential object to be obtained is to prevent the effusion of blood, in order to avoid a shock which might hurt the Ottoman Authority.

To attain this object, it would be proper to ask the Druses the motive of their rising; to allow them to set forth their wishes in a respectful memorial; to promise them that their memorial shall be immediately transmitted to Constantinople, and brought to the knowledge of His Highness; to promise them that the gracious orders of the Sultan shall in time be communicated to them; to require them to retire, to await the sovereign decision, and to abstain from every act of hostility; lastly, to command Omar Pasha also to abstain from every hostile operation, except in case he should be attacked and forced to defend himself.

2nd. A second point less important is to prevent the overthrow or defeat of the Ottoman troops.

For this purpose it would be proper to require from Omar Pasha a secret report which should distinctly, and under his responsibility, show whether the Ottoman troops will be able to hold the Mountain, in case of a general revolt, and supposing that water and provisions should be cut off from them.

In case Omar Pasha, after having held a council of war, should find it impossible to resist, it would be better to order him to retreat under some plausible pretext.

3. It is of the highest importance that your Excellency should inform the Sublime Porte without delay, of the state of things in the Lebanon, of the agitation which reigns there, of the measures provisionally taken, and of the results provisionally obtained; for this purpose it will be useful to transmit a copy of the reports of Omar Pasha.

4. Lastly, your Excellency will render a real service to your Government, by asking from it precise instructions as to the ulterior course to be followed in the question of the Lebanon.

As for the Undersigned, they will write in this sense, to their Excellencies the Ministers at Constantinople, and to their respective Governments.

Such is the opinion of the Undersigned, which they hasten to convey to your Excellency, agreeably to the spirit of the instructions with which they are furnished, begging you to accept the expression of their highest consideration.

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.  
E. D'ADELBOURG.



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*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 19, 1842*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on the 8th and 9th instant, about 400 or 500 Druses collected at Kfer Nebrok, one league from Ibtedeen, and as Assaad Pasha told me, cut off the water-course which supplies the flour mill of Ibtedeen. Other accounts state that the water was not cut off.

Omar Pasha sent out some Irregular Cavalry, partly Druse and partly Christian, to reconnoitre, following himself before day-break with three battalions, about 1500 men, and a light field-piece.

It is stated that the leader of the Druse horse betrayed his countrymen, making them believe that he and his party would turn against Omar Pasha, whose force they represented as weak. The insurgents thus deluded came as far as Mogasir close to Ibtedeen, where Omar Pasha was awaiting them in good order, his very superior force partly in column, partly extended in Light Infantry order over the rough ground, and outflanking the Druses. When well within range, Omar Pasha fired grape at them, levelling the field-piece himself. Thus unexpectedly assailed and outflanked, the Druses retired in confusion, and on reaching the small plain of Symkenia they were still further discomfited by the Christian Cavalry under Abusumra and Shantini, passing through Kfer Nebrok, and making no stand in Symkenia half a league beyond it.

Omar Pasha now advanced with all his force and passed through those places. In the latter of them are two helwas, or Druse churches. These the troops of the Pasha burnt, and it is said that one or two old men, attendants on the helwas, were killed in them. An excess as cruel, as it was impolitic.

Above Symkenia, which is on a rising ground, is a higher range. On this the Druses rallied, and the war-cry brought numerous parties of their countrymen round them. Omar Pasha thought it prudent to retire to Ibtedeen.

The Druses are stated to have lost fifteen or twenty killed, less wounded, and about twelve prisoners.

The result of the collision is that Omar Pasha has justified the good opinion of his military talents, that the Druses morally and physically have received a temporary check, and that their angry feelings are still more embittered against the Turks, who they, the Druses, state, last year incited them to destroy the Christians, and now turn their arms against them, because they do not give up the Christian plunder which the Turkish Authorities promised them as a reward for their attack on the Christians.

They state moreover that they could not possibly pay back the greatest part of the plunder, because they had spent the proceeds of it in bribes or presents to the functionaries of the Porte in Syria; that Selim Pasha had received four thousand, Mustapha Pasha, Seraskier, fourteen thousand purses.

In my despatch of November 3, I had the honour to observe that in the event of extreme need the Turks would excite the Druses against the Christians. It has already come to pass. Omar Pasha has ordered the Maronite Emirs of the Meten to assemble their adherents at Hamana, (with the view of opening the Damascus road, and acting on the flank of the Druses) and the Christians of Djenin and other districts to arm for the Porte. The Christians have evaded the order.

Omar Pasha has also distributed three hundred stand of arms to the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar, and a neighbouring village.

The Christians have, however, remained neutral. Great as are the wrongs inflicted on them by the Druses, the more reflecting and respectable amongst them, as well as the clergy, wish well to the movement of the Druses, and singular to say, there is a sympathy on the part of the Christians for their hereditary enemies; they are glad when they are successful, and sorry when they are not so, because

1. The Druses have declared their intention to petition for, and support the nomination of a Maronite Shehab to the Emirat of the Mountain.

2. Because although they have hated the Druses, they have now transferred a great part of it, in addition to what they already felt, to the Turks.

The Mutualis have hitherto remained neutral.

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Assaad Pasha informed M.d'Adelbourg and myself that he had convoked the Druse and Christian Sheiks to Beyrout ; they have not come, an important proof of their disaffection and mistrust.

After the affair of the 9th Omar Pasha arrested the Kadi or Judge of the Druses, as well as two Sheiks.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 177.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 24, 1842.*

HAVING described to your Lordship the hostile acts and position of parties in the Mountain, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship's notice occurrences of a more pacific nature, negotiations.

On the 9th instant the Civil Governor of Beyrout, Said Fataha, and the Haznadar of the Pasha, with a certain sum of money, were sent by Assaad Pasha with a conciliatory message to the Druses, with orders besides to inquire into the causes of their complaint and hostile bearing.

On the 12th, the Pasha, at a visit which he made to me, stated that the Druses required security, and that he had ordered Omar Pasha not to act hostily, only defensively.

On the 15th, Assaad Pasha applied to me for coals for the steamer, stating that he intended to send her to Constantinople with the result of Fataha's mission. This person went in the first instance to Betater to confer with Youssuff Abd-el-Melek, and from thence to Mooktara to Shibli-el-Arian.

On the 17th Fataha and the Haznadar returned, but neither their money nor their arguments produced the desired effect, for no steamer was dispatched to announce submission. Assaad Pasha appears to act on the Turkish practice of only announcing agreeable intelligence.

But on the 18th a result of the mission appeared. Sheik Said Djinblat sent a confidential agent to inform me that Assaad Pasha had sent for his elder brother and himself the night before, and told them that they might return home in liberty ; he merely enjoined them to calm the agitation now existing amongst their countrymen.

Sheik Naaman, or the Unfathomable as the Druses call him, with thanks declined to avail himself of the Pasha's offer, his caution suggesting to him probably that he would only render his position worse by appearing in scenes where no elements of order counterbalanced those of disorder.

Sheik Said, however, only eighteen years old, and just married, accepted his liberty.

The agent informed me that Shibli-el-Arian and Youssuff Abd-el-Melek had asked for

1. The liberation of the Sheiks, Druses and Christians.
2. The change or dismissal of Omar Pasha.
3. A return to the ancient custom of the Mountain.
4. No conscription or disarmament.

Fataha was charged by Assaad Pasha to tell the Druses that the cause of their arrest was the non-payment by them of the indemnities of the Christians, and that if they gave guarantees for their liquidation they should be set free, an artful message, meant to transfer the unpopularity of the demand from the Turks to the Christians. Shibli-el-Arian not only parried, but turned the blow on the Turks ; he boldly stated that the Turkish Government alone ought to pay the indemnities, because

1. They had, by the promises of reward and plunder, incited the Druses last year to fall on the Christians, and
2. Because the Druses have actually paid nearly sixty thousand purses in bribes to the functionaries of the Porte in Syria, including the late Grand Vizier, to whom Mustapha Pasha is said to have contributed a share of his very large bribe from the Druses. Both he, Mustapha and Selim Pashas, stand foremost in the list of corrupted.

These charges of Shibli-el-Arian, which he states he can confirm by written documents, tally nearly word for word with the statements which I made at the beginning of this year, and verify my prediction that when the Turks attempted to coerce the Druses, or to force them to pay the indemnities, they would resist, and reproach them with having incited them to attack their Christian countrymen; as wicked a proceeding as a Government could adopt.

Besides Said Djinblat, two minor Druse Sheiks were let loose, and the three, together with Mohamed Pasha, Fataha, and the Haznadar, left Beyrout on the 21st for the Mountain, to carry on fresh negotiations.

From what I hear, I believe that Assaad Pasha has expressed his readiness to change Omar Pasha.

The Mountaineers accuse Omar Pasha of intemperance, and very vicious habits. I believe the charges, but it would not be fair to expect much from a renegade and a deserter.

Thus the Turkish Government has already yielded on one, if not two, most important points to insurgents with arms in their hands, who are besides blockading the Sultan's Lieutenant in the Mountain. The order of things is reversed; for those who should obey, command, and those who should command, obey.

The chance of maintenance of direct Turkish power is very precarious. If they should succeed in maintaining it, they can only do so, not by vindicating their authority as a legitimate Government ought to do, but by exciting and playing on the worst passions of men, by setting sect against sect, subdividing again, by corruption and intrigue, these sects amongst themselves, by bribing the worthless to betray their relations, their religion, and their country, by dissolving all the ties which create confidence or happiness amongst men.

Should the Turkish Government make war on the Mountaineers, and succeed, they can only do so by a great loss of human life, and the infliction of misery. Can any one say that her mode of governing the Mountain renders such sacrifices justifiable?

The Porte cannot therefore now insist on her sway of direct power in the Lebanon on the grounds which she asserted before. One day her troops attacked and defeated, another the Governor of the Mountain dispersing those who she stated wished for her rule, with grape-shot and musketry, in order to obtain water; the same functionary shortly afterwards compelled to fight an engagement to get meat. Sarim Effendi, and even Mustapha Pasha, will not say, as they did say, "that the tranquillity of the Mountain was in fact restored," or "that the present state of things was satisfactory to the great majority of the people."

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

#### No. 178.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 29, 1842.*

I REGRET to state to your Lordship that a fresh collision took place betwixt Omar Pasha and the Druses on the 21st instant.

The cause of the conflict appears to have been an attempt on the part of the Omar Pasha to forage, and seize cattle. The result was the defeat of Omar Pasha.

1. Because he did not seize the cattle.

2. Because he was driven back from the spot where the collision took place to his stronghold, a distance of more than two miles. It is true that the Druses were driven back when they attempted to penetrate into it, but they could not, nor could scarcely any troops have made themselves masters of the strong position of Omar Pasha, defended as it was by cannon.

However, the Druses did take a cannon, intrenched as it was in the rock, and a violent struggle, hand to hand, took place betwixt them and Omar Pasha for it. He brought his other cannon to bear on them, and then charged them with Abusumra and the Christian horse, about sixty in number. Here the Druses lost the most of their men. They admit that four lay dead in the embrasure of the gun.

The chief Turkish loss was occasioned, as nearly all accounts concur in stating, by the unexpected attack of the Druse Melkem Amad on the battalion sent in support of the cavalry foraging party, when they were above two miles and a half from Ibtadeen. They were completely routed.

The accounts of the loss of the combatants are most contradictory. The Druses state that they lost only eight, and that the Turks had one hundred killed. Turkish statements about invert this estimate. But it is clear that a serious loss of life took place.

This is the fifth effusion of blood, the fifth collision which has taken place betwixt the troops of the Sultan and his subjects of the Lebanon, all resulting from the ill-fated attempt to uphold his direct rule over them. In four of them the Turkish troops have been worsted. In the fifth, Omar Pasha, with a trebly superior force, and grape-shot, dispersed the Druses, but he did not maintain or sleep on his vantage ground.

Therefore the authority of the Porte is misprized, or violently resisted in the Lebanon, except in one solitary spot, for Zahlé cannot be considered in the Mountain, and in that spot the officer commanding, who can only make good his position by the strength of the buildings of the palaces, of the rocky and difficult ground about them, and his own knowledge of the art of war, is so reduced that he is foiled in his attempt to seize a few head of cattle.

What a painful comment is not this state of affairs on the policy of the Porte, and on that of her fanatical and short-sighted Plenipotentiary, Mustapha Pasha. In September he draws a picture, almost Arcadian, of the peaceful and contented condition of the Mountaineers, under the new rule, which he had established: in November, the authority of the Sultan, and cannon, and troops, and the skill of a good and devoted officer, are all brought into play to procure food for, and assure the position of the newly appointed Governor of the Mountain, who, we were told, was the object of a nation's choice. The grave responsibility of what is passing must rest on the Seraskier who deceived, and on the Porte which encouraged and acted on the deception. The Druses state that one cause of their hostile attitude is their desire to disprove the fallacies of the Seraskier.

The Christians still remain neutral: in feeling their sympathy very generally continues with the Druses. The Christian inhabitants of Deir-el-Kammar, however, cannot forget the cruelties practised on them by the Druses in the civil war. One of the most active and leading Christians, an ecclesiastic, told me yesterday that the Maronite clergy had lately exhorted their flocks to cherish a friendly feeling for the Druses; I think, however, that corruption would place several of them as before amongst the Turkish party.

The Greek Antiochians, influenced by their Patriarch and clergy, who are under a foreign influence, shew a decided tendency to favour the policy of the Turks, and thereby prevent the restoration of a Maronite Emir.

Most painful as is the present state of affairs, it at least takes away from the Porte the pretext of turning round on the Powers hereafter, and saying in reproach, should order not follow on the execution of the arrangement proposed by them, "We at least maintained order and peace in the Lebanon, but your counsel has upset them."

The Porte cannot now say this, for the delusive calm has passed away, and bloodshed, and disorder, and confusion, almost endless, have marked the course of her short and ill-fated rule.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 179.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, November 30, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that Shibli-el-Arian has for some days back established his head-quarters at Aim Mattura and Mooktara, close to it, from whence he has detached his nephew, Khezayee Arian, to cut off the communication betwixt Ibtadeen, Sidon, and the sea, as well as those between Beyrout and Sidon, which he has effected.

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The Druses under the Talhooks and the Raslans, having also declared their hostility; the direct road from Beyrout to Ibtdeen is cut off.

The consequences of this state of things are—

1. That Ali Pasha, who marched from Sidon on the 17th ultimo, with two light field-pieces, two battalions of 600 men each, a few cavalry, and a quantity of stores and provisions, succours for Ibtdeen, was obliged to halt a quarter of a league from Sidon, on perceiving the Druse videttes plundering the mills on the river of the flour which was destined for Sidon. The plan thus foiled, probably Omar Pasha's, was a good one, his streight considered. It was intended that Omar Pasha should meet him, Ali Pasha, half way, and "lui donner la main."

2. On the 17th, about one hundred and twenty cavalry in the Turkish service were attacked at Daradj Ainab, half way between Beyrout and Ibtdeen, and routed with the loss of a few killed, wounded, and prisoners. They returned to Beyrout. The wilful ignorance of the Turks, in sending cavalry through a country, where the difficulties of it rendered their action impossible, caused them this repulse.

The Emir Emin Raslan, late Turkish Agent with the Druses, and appointed by them Governor of the plain of Beyrout, has now declared against the Government, and assembled a large force in the three inaccessible villages of Shooyfaat, two leagues from Beyrout.

Omar Pasha has withdrawn his Turkish troops from Deir-el-Kammar.

The Druses have now recovered from any intimidation caused by the affair of the 9th, and unless some agreement be come to, will act offensively against any attempt to convey succours to Omar Pasha, defensively against an attack on them, or endeavour to open the roads.

The leaders of the Druses are Shibli-el-Arian, Youssuff Abd-el-Melek, the Emir Emin Raslan, as subtle adversaries as the Turkish Government could have. Under their orders are at least some 6000 Druses ready to gain or fall, should their leaders so please. Shibli-el-Arian is the only soldier.

To support their cause the Turks have but one champion, Omar Pasha, such as I have described him, but still a very good officer in any service. Will he be able to uphold his Government against the mass of hatred and physical force, which, by their policy, they have arrayed against them in a mountainous country?

Intrigue and corruption may weaken the position of the Mountaineers, but even these instruments must now be blunt, for the Turks have deceived so often, that they can hardly deceive again, and as regards the second expedient, the material of corruption so liberally used by Mustapha Pasha is not forthcoming; so little money have the Turks, that a part of the Albanian troops encamped outside Beyrout, mutinied on the 17th instant, against their leader, Abbas Agha, for want of pay; after a violent struggle, the Mutineers were put down, with a loss of eight killed, and more wounded. Amongst the former was the nephew of the Chief. The occurrence was so serious, that the Turkish artillery loaded their guns, and lit their port fires, the regular infantry closing the gates.

The Government besides have been obliged to negotiate bills at high interest, although made payable at the Treasury at Constantinople.

The Turkish Government will, however, try their favourite expedient, and sow dissension amongst the sects; already the Greek Antiochians, guided by the peculiar influences which they acknowledge, have shown a leaning towards the Turkish, rather than the Druse-Christian interest. If carried out, this will be a great blow to the insurgents. Besides, the chances of war are uncertain, even in countries where good faith exists between the combatants. Omar Pasha is a very good officer, and he may call to his aid the Albanians, who will dare all for plunder. On the other hand, the best military leaders of the Druses are in prison, those who are now at their head, with the exception of Shibli-el-Arian, are young and inexperienced.

The Turks may gain temporary advantages, but they can only do so by desolation. Misery, not peace must follow on their success.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, December 7, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on the 2nd instant, the Christian Chiefs of the Lebanon, the Greek Antiochians excepted, held a meeting at the Convent of Aout Elias, about six miles from Beyrout, to deliberate on the propriety of joining the Druses. Two leading Christian Emirs had been deputed before to go to Betater, one of the Druse points of union. They are the Emir Abdallah, brother of the Emir Beshir Kassim, and another Shehab of influence.

Assaad Pasha, to counteract the object of the Christian meeting, sent his secretary, Gibran-el-Aura, to Aout Elias. He made the most conciliatory proposals to the meeting, promising them redress for all grievances. To give a proof of his sincerity, the Pasha dismissed Sheik Francis-el-Hazen, a devoted adherent of the Turks, and appointed by them Governor of the Kesrouan. Gibran Aura succeeded in bringing the Emir Beshir of Beit Lemma, and three other Christian Chiefs, to Beyrout; to the former, he is said to have given fifty purses.

To-day I was informed that the Christian meeting, which still holds its sitting, had resolved to unite with the Druses on their acceptance of four conditions.

1. To restore so much of the plunder as had not been destroyed or burnt.
2. To agree to the nomination of a Maronite Shehab, to the Government of the Mountain.
3. That the Druses of the Meten should remain under the Maronite Emirs of Beit Lemma.
4. That the Druses should give bonds for the amount of the plunder which they cannot liquidate at once.

The success of the Turks on the 5th instant, may probably induce the Christians not to act up to these propositions.

The Emir Haidar, who already accepted a bribe on the question of the Turkish Governor for the Mountain, then relapsed again into the Christian party, is now wavering, and will probably act as the Government wishes, that is, directly contrary to the purpose for which he attended the meeting, and for which it was convoked. He is seduced this time, it is stated, by the hope of being appointed Christian Emir of the Mountain.

I have always had the honour to predict that the assurances of the Christians to the Druses, that they would co-operate with them, could not be relied on. They wish well to their movement, and desire the nomination of a Christian Prince, which it was to bring about, but they are pusillanimous, and can nearly all be bought; the only difficulty is the price, the amount of the bribe; a sword and a watch, or shawl, and a few hundred or thousand piastres, shake the principle of the most patriotic.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

P.S.—I have the honour to say that I have just received information, that the following concessions have been made by Assaad Pasha to the Christians, in order to gain their support—namely, the possession of their Seigniorial rights; a general amnesty—specially including Emir Abdallah Shehab, of Gazir, and Sheik Batros Caram, of Eden; liberation of all persons sent to Acre; the dismissal of Sheik Francis-el-Hazen from the Government of the Kesrouan; the promise of restoration of the property plundered by the Druses; a bouyourouldi to the Maronite Patriarch, assuring him of protection.

These concessions are made on condition of unqualified fidelity and obedience on the part of the Maronites, and their acceptance of whatever Governor (Mushir, I hear, was the word) the Porte should be pleased to appoint, and I now hear that several of the Emirs and Sheiks have signed a petition to the Porte.

HUGH ROSE.



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*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, December 7, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that Mohammed Pasha and Fataha, whose departure on a mission I mentioned in my despatch of November 24, returned to Beyrout on the 3rd instant, with as it is supposed, the final answer of the Druses; I believe the distinguishing feature of their demands to have been the removal of Omar Pasha with his troops from the Mountain. Be this as it may, they were clearly not conciliatory, for Assaad Pasha was extremely irritated with Fataha, for having brought him so unsuccessful a result of his negotiations, and violently vituperated him.

He gave further evidence of the necessity of relieving the troops at Ibtedeen, and of the hopelessness of continued negotiations with the Druses. For the same night, the 6th, he ordered five hundred Albanians, and a few regular troops to embark from this place for Sidon, under Reshid Pasha.

On the 4th, early in the morning, these troops were disembarked a little on this side of Sidon.

Yesterday, the 5th, Assaad Pasha's interpreter came to me, and informed me, by his order, that he, Assaad Pasha, had done his best to conciliate the Druses, that he had granted one of their demands, and then another still more important; that a strong petition against Omar Pasha had been presented, signed by some hundred persons; that he had agreed to remove him, sending in his place Reshid Pasha, but that all had been in vain, and that therefore he had sent off that officer with troops to Ibtedeen, with orders to relieve Omar Pasha and his garrison, who were come down to Sidon, as he had several sick and wounded; that he had reason to believe that Reshid Pasha had been attacked, and that Omar Pasha had been so also, but he denied that the latter had gone out to meet the former in combination with him; that he begged to tell me amicably, not officially, that war had now taken place between his Government and the Druses; that he hoped that I would write to Her Majesty's Government, and her Ambassador at Constantinople, that he had done his best to conciliate and settle matters; that on the 6th instant he had sent the message to the Druses that he should relieve Omar Pasha and his garrison with Reshid Pasha and his troops.

Yesterday news came from Shoofaat that the Greek Antiochians, who constitute more than half the population, had refused to obey the Druse Emir, Emin Raslan.

Assaad Pasha immediately invested his cousin, the Emir Hassan Raslan, who has been at variance with him, as governor of those villages, and of the plain of Beyrout, in the place of Emin, who fled. Hassan Raslan the same day, accompanied by 150 Turkish irregular cavalry, proceeded to his new Government, followed by Mohamed Pasha, with two guns, 300 Albanians, and 450 Nizams in support, who entered Shoofaat, but at the request of the inhabitants the Pasha sent back the Albanians.

To-day Assaad Pasha sent to me his interpreter to inform me that the Turkish steamer had arrived, bringing Omar Pasha from Sidon, who reported to him that the Druses had attacked Reshid Pasha on his march from Sidon to Ibtedeen, that the Druses had been totally defeated and dispersed, that Reshid Pasha, according to the proposed arrangements, had effected his entry into Ibtedeen with the provisions and ammunition, Omar Pasha giving over the command to him.

Reshid Pasha landed at Sidon on the 4th, pushed his advanced guard of Albanians that night as far as Ain-Mazboud,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  leagues from Sidon, himself halting short of it with Ali Pasha's brigade, in all about 250 men. He was preceded by a party of Druse horse, who, mistrusted both by the Druses and Omar Pasha, had gone to Sidon some time back.

The next morning he continued his march with the above force; at Wadi-el-Hamman, a narrow valley four hours from Sidon, two from Ibtedeen, three quarters of a mile long, the advanced guard was attacked by the Druses under Said Djinblat. The cannon were brought to bear on the Druses.

In the mean time Omar Pasha had taken up, the same day, his position at Symkenia, half a league from Ibtedeen, which enabled him to watch Mooktara

and the Shoof, where Shibli-el-Arian had collected his force, as well as the Sidon road, Omar Pasha's object being to fall on his flank and rear, should he attack Reshid Pasba. He detached also my informant, Abusumra, with a small party of horse and foot to the north-north-west, to the Arkoub district, to engage, if necessary, Melkem Amad and his clan, a wise and well-planned disposition.

As soon, therefore, as Omar Pasha heard the firing from Wadi-el-Hamman, he advanced towards the Shoof, attacking Mooktara, where Shibli-el-Arian is stated to have been with a large body of Druses. He also sent off immediately Abusumra, who states that he routed the Amads.

In the mean time the Albanians had repulsed the Druses who attacked Reshid Pasha, who with his column, sixty boxes of ammunition, and one hundred loads of provision, advanced without fighting through the Wadi or valley, arriving at Ibtedeen without further hindrance. The Druses retired without making a stand through Mezrat-esh-Shoof on Mooktara, where their countrymen were making a resistance principally in the residence of the Djinblats. However, the sight of the Albanians arriving from Wadi-el-Hammam, who burnt several houses in their advance through the country, appears to have intimidated the Druses, and they abandoned the village of Mooktara. The Albanians and Turks now entered it, and burnt the house, palace as it is called, of the Djinblats, and some other houses, and what was inexcusable, the Christian church, which they plundered of all the effects which the Christian inhabitants had placed there for safety; and still worse, the Albanians killed the Christian priest, who, entreating their mercy for his church, had placed himself at its door. Omar Pasha, Abusumra tells me, drew his sword, and in vain endeavoured to save the priest. Omar Pasha the next day went to Sidon with sixty Christian horse, under Abusumra and Shantiri, the two latter he brought here.

Shibli-el-Arian and the Druses fled to Niha, which is on the road to Hasbeya, his favourite haunt.

Abusumra estimates the Druse loss at one hundred and thirty killed—heads, as he calls them, of which he brought in two. He says that Omar Pasha caused the few prisoners who were brought in both on that and on the previous days of collision to be cut down. The Druse party only estimate their loss at thirty.

The Turkish troops have gained a complete victory, the fruits of which are,

1. That the road from Sidon to Ibtedeen is opened for the present.
2. That succours have been conveyed to Ibtedeen, and its garrison increased to 3500 or 4000 men.

3. That Ibtedeen is no longer blockaded.

4. That the Turkish influence is raised for the time, and the insurgent depressed. A Druse Sheik, Mahmoud Talhook, has come in to-day to see Assaad Pasha. Shooyfaat, an important point, one of the keys of the Mountain, is also in the possession of the Turkish troops.

Abusumra tells me that the Druses had, previously to the 5th, blockaded effectually Ibtedeen, cutting off the cattle and grain which were proceeding to it from Zahlé and other parts. Abusumra is my principal informant, and a partisan of Omar Pasha. His account must be viewed with caution; but if it be true, the Druses, on the 5th, appear to have shown great want of nerve and confidence. The rapid concentration by steam, and action of a large force, the tactics of Omar Pasha, the cannon, the Albanians, and, above all, the want of their own military leaders, caused amongst them a panic not at all in keeping with their former deeds in war. The Druses were also in a measure taken by surprise.

It is generally supposed that Mohamed Pasha agreed to all the demands of Shibli-el-Arian, in order to escape detention. Assaad Pasha availed himself of the security inspired by these promises, and rapidly acted, as has been shown, although he denies a combined movement, which is puerile. The plan, a very good military one, was probably Omar Pasha's, and conveyed through Mohamed Pasha to Assaad Pasha.

Thus, as I had the honour to predict, Omar Pasha has been forced to fight a general engagement to obtain provisions. Albanians have been introduced with their savage warfare into the Mountain, a priest has been murdered, a church ransacked and desecrated, houses burnt, and much blood spilt in effecting that object.

It is stated that the Druses are again collecting.

The Turkish authorities have obeyed their orders, used the means, as Turks

do, which the Porte placed at their disposal, repelling force by force; but the responsibility consequent on the obstinate policy which has caused the occurrence of late events rests on the Porte. 469

It is most probable that the Druses, reckoning too much on the weakness of the Turkish Government, and on their strength, persevered in making demands which Assaad Pasha's sense of duty to his Government would not allow him to concede. The Druses are unfortunately under the guidance of Shibli-el-Arian, who is as unprincipled as he is daring.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE

P. S. I should state that a sort of tacit agreement had been come to between the Turks and Druses, to suspend hostilities during the negotiations. Mohamed Pasha had even signed requisitions on the Governor of the Bekaa for ten days' forage for Shibli's horse; and the Druses, on their side, on two occasions, had permitted the passage of provisions to Ibtedeen, on the guarantee that no ammunition was to be introduced.

Assaad Pasha caused a salute to be fired for the success of his troops, and despatches a steamer with the news to Constantinople.

Accounts which continue to come in state that the numbers and resistance offered by the Druses to Reshid Pasha were very trifling. The Druses appear to have been taken by surprise, and to have arrived at the scene of action too late. A supposed attack on the Druses, near Beyrout, by Assaad Pasha, prevented about fifteen hundred of them from assisting their countrymen.

HUGH ROSE.

#### No. 182.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, December 10, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of my dispatch of the 30th ultimo, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

#### Inclosure in No. 182.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, November 30, 1842.*

I HAVE no doubt but that the knowledge of the state of affairs at Constantinople which your Excellency does me the honour to communicate to me, will lead materially to tranquillize the Mountaineers, and to remove two causes of the insurrectionary movement, that feeling of despair that they were to be for always consigned to the direct government of the Porte, and the desire to convince all parties that the Seraskier had misrepresented their wishes when he had stated that the great majority of the Lebanites wished for Turkish rule.

I shall scrupulously comply with the instructions of your Excellency, and I have already been enabled to make a communication in the manner which your Excellency is pleased to recommend. I have reason to believe that it caused a lively joy and gratitude.

Father John, who is a sort of agent of the Patriarch at Beyrout, called on me, and expressed gratitude which really appeared heartfelt towards Her Majesty's Government and your Excellency. The same occurred with a Druse.

Your Excellency will be glad to hear that the prudent statements, and better still the pacific acts of Assaad Pasha, so different from those of the Seraskier, had already enabled me to resume the line of conduct which I had pursued, till Mustapha Pasha's lamentable policy had rendered me passive, and to exhort the Mountaineers to make known their wishes to their legitimate

Governor, who stated his wish to know them, and to await peacefully the result of that reference of them to the Porte which his Excellency had promised.

The Druse party state that their unanimous wish is for a Shehab, a Maronite out of deference to the Christians, but that they do not like to make known this wish to the Turkish Authority because it would irritate him, and interfere with the accomplishment of their other demands; and they anxiously hope that as they have incurred so heavy a responsibility, the Christians should not vacillate, or commit themselves; this is the real translation of what they say, by demanding a Shehab, thus offending the Porte in the most sensitive point.

In this sense a communication was made to me, by which I was earnestly requested to induce the Christian party to petition the Porte for a Shehab, and was assured that if I would do so, the emissary would bring me the same petition signed by Shibli-el-Arian, Youssuff Abd-el-Melek, and all the Druse chiefs now in the country. I declined to do so, stating that my exhortations would be nothing more or less than the employment of the influence of Her Majesty's Government to induce the inhabitants to do that which ought to be quite voluntary, and to come exclusively from themselves; that if I did so, the Porte might fairly complain that that which purported to be a petition from her subjects was not so in the true sense of the word, because the influence of a Foreign Power had produced that which pretended to be spontaneous. I observed that this view of the case was the more correct, because every Turkish subject, by Turkish law and usage, had a right to frame and forward an *Ardhil Mahdar*, a general petition.

There is a report that the Druse belligerents have allowed Omar Pasha to receive provisions, but not ammunition; the Druse Sheiks in prison deny it.

Al Pasha is still with his considerable force outside Sidon. The Druses are in possession of the country and roads as before described, so much so that communications from Omar and Mohamed Pasha to Assaad Pasha are sent through the Druse Emir, Emin Raslan.

Haznadar of the Pasha arrived on the 26th instant with a communication from Mohamed Pasha and Shibli-el-Arian, who demanded, The liberation of the Chiefs.

Omar Pasha's dismissal, and the troops in Ibtadeen to be reduced to under the command of his successor.

One thousand four hundred purses for Shibli.

And Pasha, it is stated, answered on the 27th that Omar Pasha should remain in Ibtadeen, that Shibli-el-Arian should receive 1400 purses, but that the demand for the liberation of the Chiefs, and of the reduction of the Turkish force in the country, must be referred to Constantinople.

Shibli-el-Arian and the Druses are said to have asked for a Shehab, but Omar Pasha refused to entertain such a request.

Mohamed Pasha's request to Shibli-el-Arian that he would suspend his operations till the answer to a reference to Constantinople should be received, was refused. The Druse leader observed that he had no barley for his cavalry; on which Mohamed Pasha gave him an order on the Governor of the Bekaa for rations for his cavalry, being 4800 mids, a proof of Shibli's force and of the conciliation between the authorities and the Druses.

It is also stated that Omar Pasha's harem is arrived at Sidon, which looks indicative of his departure from his post.

The Turks by negotiations are endeavouring to circumvent the Druses, the Druses the same with the Turks; hitherto the former have had the advantage. They are well matched. The Druses state that they know that the Turks gain by the delay which they have granted, but that they gain also, as they are thus enabled to improve their relations with the Christians.

The Druse Sheiks have made repeated communications to me, requesting me to represent to Her Majesty's Government and your Excellency their unalterable desire for the substitution of the rule of a Shehab instead of that of a Turkish Governor.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, November 16, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state, with reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, that I have had an interview with Ahmet Pasha, relative to the withdrawal of Shibli-el-Arian and his proceedings.

His Excellency, after admitting to me that he had received an order from the Seraskier some time previously to arrest Shibli, together with the Emirs Ahmet and Effendi, Governors of the districts of Hasbeya and Rasheya, said, that he had opposed the execution on account of its imprudence, and that he had pledged himself to protect these three individuals so long as their loyal conduct entitled them to his confidence; and that as they were aware of his honourable intentions towards them, they ought to have relied on his word and have abstained from rebellion.

I observed to his Excellency, that after the second seizure of the rest of the Sheiks, who were in the confidence and employ of Omar Pasha, it was but natural that Shibli should have lost all confidence, particularly as he was aware, from his Excellency's own admission, that the Seraskier had issued an order for his arrest.

After a prolonged discussion, and indeed a painful one from the variety of puerile arguments and propositions I had to combat, the Pasha promised me he would not attack Shibli, unless he were the first to commence hostilities, in order not to preclude the possibility of an accommodation. His Excellency has, however, sent bodies of Irregular Horse to occupy different points and places to prevent the insurrection from spreading to the more distant confines of this Province:—a precautionary measure, rendered necessary, by the critical circumstances which embarrass the Local Government, but which will fail to have the desired effect, in consequence of the subsequent secret orders issued by the Pasha, which, by betraying his real intentions, cannot but irritate the insurgents, and compel them to act more vigorously in their own defence.

Emir Said-el-Deen was directed to attend on the Pasha, who proposed to place him at the head of an expedition against Shibli-el-Arian, Emir Ahmet, and Emir Effendi, but the former replied, that he did not think it prudent for the Government to commence hostilities, before it had made extensive preparations of a nature to secure success on the first onset, since the insurgents were too strong in their fastnesses to be attacked with advantage, and the defeat of the Turkish troops would only encourage them and others to acts of still greater insubordination.

The Pasha has sent some Irregular Horse to Sasa to guard the road to the Ledgea, the Arabs of which place, although they have refused to join Shibli, have, on the other hand declared, they would take no part against him. Orders have been transmitted likewise to the Regular Troops quartered at Zahlé, to march to Deir-el-Kammâr with a portion of the inhabitants, as well as to Emir Hangiar, to keep that part of the country quiet during their absence.

The weakness of the Government compels it to use one portion of the Natives against the other, which not only adds to the present anarchy, but engenders future feuds and dissensions among them,—which generally lead to those civil wars which have depopulated and almost ruined this country.

Shibli-el-Arian, who has already quitted Hasbeya for Mount Lebanon, at the head of some hundred followers, with the object of joining in the attack on Omar Pasha, has occupied the country from Wadi-el-Korn to the foot of the mountains, with his troops to prevent a surprise, to seize all the produce belonging to the Government, and to receive speedy intelligence of the movements of the Local Troops. He has entrusted the defence of Hasbeya to its inhabitants; but, as the reports in daily circulation are too numerous and contradictory not to be received without some degree of caution, I dare venture to subjoin translation of a letter I have this instant received from an individual on whose statement some reliance may be placed.

The people of Mouara-el-Naman have expelled their Governor, whose effects they have disposed of by public auction. The Government has sent some Irregular Horse to recall them to their duty. It is also stated, that the inhabitants of Kalaat Merkab, in the mountains to the north of Tripoli, have revolted.

The refusal of the Nablousians to pay the 4000 purses they owe of last year's revenue, together with the almost daily combats of the followers of the houses, Abdul Hadi, the Governor's, and Gerar, are likely to add greatly to the already disturbed state of that district, more especially, as the Arabs of Sahr have availed themselves of their dissensions to attack Harty, from which they drove away 1200 horned cattle.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

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Inclosure in No. 183.

*Translation of a letter from Hasbeya.*

November 14, 1842.

ON the 10th instant, Shibli Aga proceeded from Hasbeya to Shoof with three hundred and fifty horse, and two hundred and fifty armed peasants, part of whom were from the Haouran. Emir Ali, and Emir Said, sons of Emir Effendi, of the district of Rasheya, and Emir Mohamed, nephew of the Governor of Hasbeya, as well as Emir Selim, and Emir Kassim, accompanied him to Niha, and reached Amatour on Friday last.

On the 13th instant Suleiman Abou Sumsun brought letters from Shibli Aga to Emir Ahmet, and to the Sheiks of Hasbeya, informing them of his arrival at Niha and Amatour, and apprizing them of his having sent circulars to Shoof, the inhabitants of which district, Christians and Druses, had come to him since both sects had united.

Further, that on his arrival at Amatour, he received letters from the Sheiks of the house of Abdul Melek, acquainting him with the arrival of the Haznadar of Assaad Pasha at Btedar, calling upon them to cease their insurrectionary movements, when he (the Pasha) would liberate a few of the arrested Sheiks and accede to their desires. That likewise, Abdul Fataha, Governor of Beyrout, had visited them, for the purpose of accomplishing an accommodation, and had invited Shibli Aga, who, however, refused to go, but requested Abdul Fataha to repair to him.

Shibli Aga has positively stated to the local Government that, unless it took into its consideration the well-being of the Druses and Christians, he would attack forthwith Omar Pasha.

The demands of the aforesaid Aga, are :—

1. The liberation of the Bekawats (Sheiks).
2. The return of the Emir Beshir to the government of Lebanon.
3. The non-disarmament of the Mountaineers.
4. The abolition of the conscription, as regards the Druses.
5. The reintegration of the feudal system, as of old.
6. The payment of the arrears due to him both by the Egyptian and the present Government ; and
7. That his personal safety be guaranteed him by an Imperial Firman, which is also to secure to him a higher position than hitherto in the Turkish service.

Suleiman Abou Sumsun, the bearer of the letters alluded to, states also that a skirmish had taken place in Arkoub between the inhabitants and Omar Pasha, and that the Druses had lost eleven individuals, and that the Turks had four killed. Moreover, that the troops had burnt the Druse temple of Zambekiyé, and that Hamadis Ismail War I, Abou Ali Hamoud, Sheik Melkem-el-Amad, and Sheik Osman Abou Alwan (enemies of the house of Amad), as well as the people of Deir-el-Kammar, have joined the Pasha.

He reported also that Omar Pasha had seized Sheik Assaad Abuneked, and Sheik Mohamed-el-Kadi, together with the youngest son of Sheik Hamoud Abuneked, and had imprisoned them with Sheik Selim Ibn Sheik Hamoud, who is still at Ibtedeen.

He added further, that Omar Pasha continued to occupy Ibtedeen with his troops from whence he had dispatched the Hamadis with the peasants of Bakalein to Symkanié, and Kadry Bey to Deir-el-Kammar with five hundred regulars.

The inhabitants of the districts of Hasbeya and Rasheya have determined to assume hostilities.

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*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, November 20, 1842.*

I HAVE had the honour to state in my report of the 5th instant, that Ahmed Pasha had instructed Shibli-el-Arian to send a confidential messenger with whom he could confer on the subject of his demands, with the view of accomplishing an adjustment.

I have now the honour to state that this individual's agent reached this city on the 17th instant, and has had an interview with his Excellency yesterday, which terminated, however in reciprocal reproaches, and in a positive declaration on the part of the agent, that his master would not place himself in the power of the Turkish authorities, notwithstanding all their written pledges of indemnity.

I have the above from the agent, who called on me after his conference to acquaint me with the result, and to convey the determination of the insurgents not to recede in any of their demands, so long as Omar Pasha kept his position in Lebanon.

He spoke with great warmth and indignation of his treachery, of his intemperance, and of his vicious habits and propensities, and said that nothing would induce the Druses to return to their duty but his immediate removal and disgrace, since they could never hope to enjoy peace or quietness under a Governor of his character.

To effect this object they have addressed a strong statement of their grievances to Assaad Pasha, and another, similar in substance, to the Sublime Porte: but they have it, nevertheless, in contemplation to resort to compulsory means for the expulsion of Omar Pasha from the Mountains, in the event that Assaad Pasha hesitates to recall him.

In endeavouring to persuade him of the danger that would attend so perilous an enterprise as the attempt to dislodge Omar Pasha from his strong position, I elicited from him, in confidence, that their intention was to occupy Ainje Zei, Symkanié, Kfer Nebrok, and Bakalein, after cutting off the water that supplies Ibtdeen, to force him to capitulate, whilst the Hamadis, with Hazai Aga-el-Arian, are to guard the road of Sidon, Ali Aga that of Barouk, Emir Emin Raslan that of Beyrout, and Abdul Melek that of Kfer Nebrok, to prevent succour from being sent to him. This appears to be the plan of the insurgents for driving the Turkish troops from the Mountains, with the reserved intention, however, of attacking them, should they ever give them an opportunity of doing so by quitting their intrenchments.

It is, therefore, certain that the Hamadis have detached themselves from Omar Pasha, and that Emir Emin Raslan, to whom an important post has been assigned, is perfectly well understood with the insurgents: moreover, I am positively assured that the few Druses and Christians who find it their interest to adhere to Omar Pasha at present, are resolved on abandoning him the moment offensive operations are assumed in earnest, and indeed it cannot be otherwise, so long as the struggle is with them one of moral and political existence.

The troops that were ordered to march on Deir-el-Kammar were obliged to return to Zahlé, the inhabitants of which place have sufficiently betrayed their real sentiments, by refusing to accompany them, with the pretext that the protection of their families required their presence.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, December 5, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state that Ahmet Pasha, on receiving intelligence that Shibli-el-Arian's outposts had attacked Omar Pasha on the 21st ultimo, determined on marching immediately with all his disposable forces against Hasbeya and Rasheya, and had issued his orders accordingly.

As the inhabitants of these two districts, although they perfectly concur in the sentiments and acts of their countrymen, have continued, notwithstanding, to pay the regular taxes through their own Chiefs, I caused it to be observed to his Excellency, that, whilst his assuming offensive operations against them could not alter in the least the main question of Lebanon, he would be forcing them thereby to assume open hostilities against the Government, which would not only add to the already complicated affairs of this unfortunate country, but would lead to the extension of the insurrection, and consequently to fresh evils and disasters.

The Chiefs of the insurgents have, for the most part, their families at Rasheya, the mountain passes to which are well and strongly guarded; and as I knew the peasants were determined to defend them, I apprehended he would experience a check, which would necessarily endanger to a great degree the tranquillity of the Pashalic.

The same day his Excellency received a letter from Shibli-el-Arian, stating, that as the affairs of Lebanon were drawing to a conclusion, there would be no longer any need for his presence there as mediator, when he intended returning to this city. Mohamed Pasha having written to the same effect, Ahmet Pasha countermanded the expedition, and issued orders instead to the Commissariat to furnish Shibli with forage for eight hundred horse, in compliance with an order from Assaad Pasha to reinstate him in his command of the districts of Hasbeya, Rasheya, and the Haouran, and to increase the number of his irregulars.

This concession was the immediate consequence of a very energetic letter, a translation of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith, addressed by Shibli, and a portion of the Mountaineers, to Assaad Pasha, expressive of their determination not to submit to Omar Pasha, whose administration had produced such a general discontent, and in reply to which his Excellency had sent Mohamed Kilismly Pasha, Said Fataha, the Governor of Beyrout, and his Haznadar, with sundry verbal proposals to the insurgents, in the hope of pacifying them. They have placed, however, under surveillance the two former officers, and have allowed the latter only to return with the message that they would submit on the liberation of their chiefs.

I will not venture to trespass too much on your Lordship's patience by detailing the subterfuges of both parties to deceive each other in order to gain time; but I may be permitted to state, very respectfully, that I have it from a good source, that it is not the intention of Shibli-el-Arian to desist from his purpose, unless the Turkish Government cede to him the greater part of his demands,—a resolution which will necessarily involve the peace of this country for an indefinite period, from the improbability of the Porte's consenting to do so until forced to it by the very circumstances which will grow out of the present posture of affairs.

From all the information I have received from authentic sources, the plans of the Druses appear to be at present:—

1. To detain Mohamed Pasha and the Governor of Beyrout, in the event of the non-liberation of their Sheiks.
2. To possess themselves of the person of Omar Pasha, under all circumstances, either by force or treachery.
3. To lull the apprehensions of the Turkish officers, that they may better succeed in the accomplishment of their designs; to effect which they are holding out to them hopes of a speedy submission, and have so disposed of some of their troops as to excite the least possible suspicion, and to give a semblance of truth to their feigned protestations of fidelity and obedience.

On the other hand, the authorities are either really deceived by them, or pretend to be so, in the hope that, in their turn, they will outwit their opponents by fair promises, which they either do not intend to fulfil, or will break the first seasonable opportunity. Indeed, both are indefatigable in their exertions to deceive each other by a series of intrigues; and although this palpable deception may result in a temporary accommodation, should it suit their mutual objects and designs, yet, as it cannot remove their real differences, or ameliorate the position of either, besides its being founded on bad faith, it must lead again speedily to disorder and confusion.

The regular troops stationed at Zahlé have been ordered to the Bekaa, where they are to be joined by native troops under Emir Mohamed Harfoush, a Mutu-ali Prince, with the object, I presume, of making a sudden descent on Rasheya, should the Druses renew their attack on Omar Pasha,—a circumstance

which, while it betrays the weakness of the Government, shews their tendency to employ one sect against the other without reflecting on the after consequences.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 185.

*Letter addressed to Assaad Pasha by Shibli-el-Ariun and a portion of the Lebanites.*

(Translation.)

*Ain Mettar, November 12, 1842.*

WE, the servants of your Excellency, have the honour to state, in reference to this country, that we, the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, were obliged to endure the effects of the tyranny, oppression, and cruelty of the Egyptian rule, until our condition became worthy of compassion. Under the weight of our misery, we implored the Divine assistance for our liberation and the amelioration of our position, when the sun of the clemency of the Sublime Porte (may God grant her victory and increase her power!) shone upon us.

We hoped, consequently, under the auspices of the sovereign benignity, that our fidelity and services would meet with an analogous treatment; that oppression and tyranny would cease, and that we should be made to experience that tranquillity and happiness which was promised us in terms so exuberant.

When the administration of our country was entrusted to his Excellency Omar Pasha, our hopes of happiness were redoubled, instead of which we have found in him a tendency and an inclination to excite dissension, to produce hatred, intrigue, deception, and disorder among the inhabitants.

Moreover, his Excellency has abandoned himself to inebriety, to pleasures, to sensuality, and, in short, to the most unbounded and brutal incontinence, which has affected his judgment.

Subsequently, he caused all the Notables (Sheiks) who served him faithfully and with zeal, to be arrested, not excepting his own Kiija, Hootoor Bey, and his cousin Amad, Abdul Selam, and others of the house of Abuneked.

These treacherous acts terrified so much the house of Amad, that many of its members fled to the Bekaa; but having assured them, in the name of the Sublime Porte, that they had nothing to fear, they returned to their habitations, in the firm hope they would be allowed to remain in peace in the bosoms of their respective families, but his Excellency attacked them with his troops three hours distant from their dwellings, killing and wounding many of their adherents.

Not content with this, he burnt the temple, together with the two blind Dervishes, who were in it: and it is worthy of note, that all the valuables and effects, which were deposited in it, belonging to the Beys, Sheiks, and other notables, after the arrest of Hootoor Bey, were pillaged and burnt.

Neither was he satisfied with all this, but he sent people to arrest the Kadi (Judge), the dispenser of the law and of justice, as well as Sheik Assaad, the only son of Sheik Hamoud Abuneked, whom he imprisoned.

We implore, therefore, of your Excellency to take these facts into your most serious consideration, as they have produced not only excitation, but likewise mistrust, in the hearts of all the Syrians, the more so, as the dissolute habits of Omar Pasha have attained to that degree of daring as to have made him summon to him, through his officers, the wives of Hootoor and Melkem Amad with dishonest intentions.

These intolerable proceedings have determined the people to sacrifice their all, and even their lives, rather than to submit to have him for their Governor.

In fact, when our Chiefs are arrested, our temples burnt, our valuables to the amount of ten thousand purses (50,000L.), robbed and destroyed, and our wives are summoned to be tempted with lascivious and dishonest proposals, where is the security and the prosperity promised us by the Imperial Munificence?

We, therefore, present this our humble Memorial to your Excellency, to state that, if the Sublime Porte will take cognizance of the condition of Her subjects, and place them under the shadow of your protection; and that, moreover, if your Excellency will be pleased to put a stop to these evils by the recall of Omar Pasha from hence, to prevent our total ruin, granting us peace; we will bind ourselves to serve faithfully, to conduct ourselves properly, and to submit to

the payment of the regular taxes, in a manner to merit always the good opinion of the Sublime Porte, to whose orders and commands we will ever remain obedient. Further, in serving your Excellency, we will use all our efforts to execute with zeal these our intentions, since the fact that the Sublime Porte has sent your Excellency to us is of itself sufficient to renew our hopes that we shall procure through your means peace and tranquillity to the exclusion of tyranny, &c.

But should Omar Pasha remain in these parts, then, we beseech your Excellency not to blame us for the consequences, for, we assure you that if even the Sublime Porte should transmit unfavourable orders on this point, we will rather expose our persons and those of our children and families, and we will shed our blood and sacrifice all our property, than submit to have him for Governor.

All the people of whatever sect participate in this resolution and entertain the same sentiments; and our league extends in the whole of Syria, including the Bedouins and other wandering tribes.

We see and we hear that the rest of the Provinces of the Empire are in the enjoyment of a just and moderate administration. This country only is debarred from this felicity, which circumstance is of itself sufficient to shew the reasonableness of our resolution to ruin ourselves, rather than to submit patiently to be constantly ill-treated and ill-rewarded.

We implore of your Excellency's indulgence to deign answer the foregoing representations. In the meantime, with the Divine assistance, we will maintain ourselves until the Sublime Porte becomes acquainted with them, when she will decree what she may deem proper, conformably to the Royal will.

In the interval, the assent to the foregoing is dependent on your Excellency's will, &c.

No. 186.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, December 6, 1842.*

WITH reference to my dispatch of yesterday's date, wherein I have had the honour of stating, that I had it from an authentic source, that one of the plans of the Druses was to detain Mohamed Pasha and Said Fataha, in case their Sheiks were not set at liberty, I may be permitted, very respectfully, to add, that the same parties have just informed me of Mohamed Pasha's liberation by Shibli-el-Arian, at the pressing solicitation of Sheik Said Djinblat, under whose safeguard he proceeded to the Mountains, who apprehended that his arrest would expose his brother, Naaman Bey, to the vengeance of Assaad Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 187.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 25, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, December 10, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to state that, after the defeat of Shibli-el-Arian and the Druses at Mooktara on the 5th instant, this chief retired with 200 of his own horse to the villages of Bedran and Niha, where he remained two days to collect his scattered forces, after which he proceeded to Rashcya with about 2000 Druses, the followers of the Sheiks of the house of Abdul Melck, of Sheik Said Djinblat, of Emir Emin Raslan, and of Emir Assad Kadem of the Shehab family.

A political cause, not less than a sudden military movement, may be assigned as the reason of this discomfiture, at the moment the Christians were holding a meeting at Aout Elias, with the apparent object of joining the Druses against the Government in case the latter consented to sign a collective petition in favour of an Emir of the Shehab family, and to restore to them their arms and property, but who were induced, in consequence of the success of the Turks, to send agents to Assaad Pasha to offer their entire submission, on condition,—

1st. That Sheik Francis Hazen, Sub-Governor of Kesrouan, should be recalled, and that district be subdivided into three departments under the government of the Sheiks, as of old, leaving, however, the populous village of Zouk with Antoura, under the administration of the Bishop of the former place.

2ndly. That his Excellency issues a bouyourouldi, guaranteeing the personal security of Emir Abdallah of Gazir, and of Petros Keram.

3rdly. That all the Christians imprisoned at Beyrout and Acre for political causes be set at liberty.

4thly. That all their privileges be secured to them; and

5thly. That the Druses should indemnify them for their losses during the civil war, &c.; to all of which his Excellency has consented, with the proviso, however, that they should depend henceforth entirely on his Excellency, and be guided solely by him; but it is reported secretly that he obliged them, in return for the foregoing concessions, to sign a memorial expressive of their satisfaction with his own administration.

So soon as the retreat of Shibli-el-Arian on Hasbeya became known, Ahmet Pasha gave the command of an expedition against him to Emir Said-el-Deen, placing under his orders not only all the chiefs of the Irregular Horse, but likewise all the native Governors and Sheiks, including those of Rasheya and Hasbeya, whose fidelity is questionable, and whose assistance he may require in the execution of his mission, which is the seizure of all the leaders of the insurgents, particularly of Shibli-el-Arian.

The Emir left this morning with about 250 followers, part of whom are Christians from Deir-el-Kammar, to join Hassan Aga-el-Yazidgi, who is at Sasa with 300 cavalry; and he is to be followed to-morrow by Moussa Bey, who has with him 1200 Nizam and three field-pieces.

Instructions have been sent also to Emir Mohamed Harfoush to co-operate with Mustapha Bey's division, consisting of 400 Nizam and 300 Zahliotes, (Greek Catholics), who are to proceed to Rasheya in support of a corps of Albanians, sent by the actual Governor of Mount Lebanon, Mohamed Reshid Pasha, to Merg Ayoun.

Besides these military movements, the Local Authorities are endeavouring, by all the means in their power, on the one hand, to regain the confidence of the insurgents by ample but vain promises, and on the other, by exciting their fears to the utmost degree; to effect which, they have sent against them natives of all denominations, headed by their respective chiefs, to produce division, and thus pave the way to future contention and strife, which the timely reintegration of an Emir only can obviate.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 188.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 25, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, December 14, 1842.*

WITH reference to my report of the 10th instant, I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship with the surrender of Shibli-el-Arian, who returned to this city yesterday in consequence of a pledge of indemnity transmitted to him by Ahmet Pasha, who gave him, moreover, a shawl and a robe of honour as a further mark of his Excellency's favour and entire pardon.

The rest of the insurgents, about 1600 in number, headed by seventy-two Sheiks, among whom are Sheik Said Djinblat, the Sheiks of the houses of Abdul Melek, Talhook, Melkem-el-Amad, and the Emirs Emin Raslan and Assaad Kadem, have proceeded to Djebail-el-Sheik in Anti-Lebanon, the fastnesses of which mountain offer them a secure asylum for the present.

The departure of Emir Said-el-Deen from hence, with full powers to act against them, has caused the flight of Emir Ahmet, Governor of the district of Hasbeya, who is supposed to be deeply compromised in the insurrection; and it is affirmed, in consequence, that the former Emir will proceed immediately to take possession of his old feudal Government, of which he was unjustly deprived by Nejib Pasha. Moreover, it is asserted that his son Emir Ahmet is to be named to the

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district of Rasheya in the room of Emir Effendi, who supported secretly the recent movement.

The foregoing Emirs are all relatives and of the house of Shehab; and although Ahmet Pasha has undoubtedly the right of punishing them for their late rebellion by removing them from their respective trusts, yet it is much to be regretted that his Excellency should have allowed pecuniary considerations to influence his public conduct, depriving thereby his acts of that due consideration which alone can render them effective under present circumstances.

Both Assaad Pasha and Ahmet Pasha have sent written pledges of indemnity to the rest of the insurgents; but as the Turks have more than once broken their faith with the native chiefs, it is very doubtful whether they will surrender themselves without a struggle. The Pashas, who are aware of this impediment to their submission, are endeavouring to restore confidence by treating kindly such as have returned to their allegiance, with the ulterior intention, perhaps, of arresting them "en masse," as they have done heretofore.

On the 11th instant, they approached to within five leagues of Damascus, to attack Emir Said-el-Deen, before he could form a junction with the troops at Sasa, but were prevented from following out their original plan by Shibli-el-Arian, who had already expressed his determination to return to his duty.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 189.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 6, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, December 18, 1842.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the pardon granted to Shibli-el-Arian, he was arrested on the night of the 14th instant, in consequence of the refusal of the other Sheiks to surrender, whose entrance into the Ledgea has caused some apprehension to the authorities lest he should escape and join them.

Feeling, however, how important it was at this moment that the public faith should be preserved, I called on Ahmet Pasha, to suggest to him the expediency of allowing his acts to partake largely of moderation, in order to restore confidence, with which opinion his Excellency concurred. He endeavoured to justify his conduct in regard to Shibli with arguments and observations, the weight of which I could not deny; so that I remained satisfied with his promise to write immediately to the Porte to procure his full pardon.

His Excellency granted readily an amnesty, at my special request, to the relatives and employés of Shibli, some of whom took refuge in this Consulate, but who are now free, in virtue of the *teskérés* with which they have been furnished.

As the most fanatical portion of the population evinced a disposition to molest the resident Druses, his Excellency caused it to be known, by a public crier, that any violence practised on them by the populace would be punished with the utmost severity.

I have also procured his consent to transfer Sheik Shibli Abdul-Melek, the aged father of Youssef Abdul-Melek, from the barracks where he was under arrest to the residence of one of the *grandees* of the city.

Mohamed Kilisli Pasha arrived here on the 15th instant, on the part of Assaad Pasha, with the object of persuading Ahmet Pasha to carry on the war with the utmost vigour against the insurgents in the Ledgea and the Haouran; but his Excellency, who had acceded to my suggestions and arguments, the day previous to his arrival, and had consented to use conciliatory means, in the first instance, before he had recourse to compulsory ones, for the pacification of the country, invited me to a conference, in which I prevailed on the former functionary also to pursue the same line of conduct; but it is with some regret that I have to note the spirit of vengeance which appears to me to actuate the acts and proceedings of the Turkish authorities of Beyrout, which I inferred from the tone of his language.

The insurgents amount to upwards of two thousand; and as some Arabs



have joined them, as well as the malcontents from the Haouran, Rasheya, and Hasbeya, they are still likely to become a formidable body of men to the Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 190.

*Mr. Consul Wood to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 6, 1843.)*

My Lord,

*Damascus, December 26, 1842.*

I HAVE had already the honour of apprizing, very respectfully, your Lordship of my intention of acquiring, as much as possible, the confidence both of the Turkish Authorities and of the insurgents, in order to be in a position to take advantage of the very first seasonable opportunity to bring about a final accommodation between them; I have now the honour to state, that so soon as the Druses passed into this Pashalic, I had an interview with Ahmet Pasha, in which I procured his Excellency's consent, to write and invite them to submit and to make such arrangements with them, as I deemed expedient for the attainment of this desirable object.

The arrival of Mohamed Kilisli Pasha in the interval with orders from Assaad Pasha, not only to prosecute the war with vigour, but on no account to grant an amnesty to Shibli-el-Arian, Emir Emin Raslan, and Sheik Youssef Abdul Melek, so far deranged the understanding between his Excellency and myself, as to render necessary a suspension of all proceedings in the matter, until I could have a second conference on the subject with the two Pashas.

To all the observations of Mohamed Pasha, which were marked with partiality, and which were not founded altogether on a correct view of the state of affairs, I replied, that I scarcely thought the Druses merited the imputation of having revolted against the authority of the Porte, when, in reality, they only defended themselves against the unaccountable proceedings of its functionaries: that it was generally known they were incited by the Pashas to molest and exterminate the Christians: that they were consequently surprised and alarmed on seeing the very same chiefs seized, who, but a short time before, were the instruments of their Anti-Christian policy: that they were still more so when they found, that notwithstanding the written pledges of indemnity in the possession of some, they were equally arrested and imprisoned; that it was not, therefore, very surprising if those who escaped what deserved the term of treachery, should have defended to the utmost their personal liberty, and that consequently, they were objects rather of commiseration than of vengeance.

I asked their Excellencies to place themselves in their position, and to tell me frankly how they would have acted under similar circumstances, particularly if they were aggravated by the licentious behaviour of the very authority whose duty it was to protect the honour of their females instead of attacking it.

I begged them to remember that they were not waging war against a foreign foe, but against the subjects of the Sultan; that however great their victories, the very circumstances which gave rise to them would depreciate their merit; that consequently, I felt certain the Sultan would be better pleased with his officers if they succeeded in persuading his subjects to return to their duty, instead of shedding uselessly their blood; that however natural may be the desire of his officers to distinguish themselves, yet they ought to bear in mind the chances of war were various and doubtful,—that Ibrahim Pasha had lost 25,000 of his troops, with a great number of his general officers, in the very same enterprise; that they ought not to run the same risk with military and pecuniary means much inferior to him, neither ought they to place themselves in a position to experience a check or a reverse in the present temper of the people, who were dissatisfied, discontented, and ripe for a general revolt; and that, finally, if the Imperial troops were beaten by the insurgents, the Sublime Porte would punish those who, by inopportune and rash measures, were instrumental in bringing its authority into contempt in Syria.

The Pashas yielding at last to my proposal, that, whilst they took the necessary steps to oppose the Druses, I should enter into communication with them, I

sent Mr. Misk, my Dragoman, on the 16th instant, with letters, both from myself and Mr. Merlato, my Austrian colleague, to invite them to submit. As they had however left the Ledgea, and were making preparations to cross the Desert to Bagdad, Mr. Misk despatched dromedary couriers and followed them himself, not without some personal danger until he overtook them and persuaded them to return.

On receiving Mr. Misk's Report, Mr. Merlato and myself waited on Ahmet Pasha, who delivered to us the bouyourouldi (a translation of which I have the honour of inclosing herewith), granting to the Chiefs a general amnesty, including even Emir Emin Raslan and Sheik Youssef Abdul Melek, on our addressing him the collective letter, of which also I beg to inclose a translation.

Emir Assaad Kadam, a Christian Prince of the Shehab family, Sheik Kassim Abuneked, Sheik Youssef Abdul Melek, and Sheik Mahmoud-el-Kadi, accompanied Mr. Misk to this Consulate, whom I directed to return immediately to the Haouran, to conduct here in safety the rest of the principal Chiefs, which he accomplished this morning.

He was fortunate enough to prevent a collision between some hundreds of the insurgents and the irregulars, by putting himself in communication with Moussa Bey, the Colonel in command of the Turkish Nizam, and by causing them to be escorted by my Kavass Bashi, who had a bouyourouldi of amnesty for them from Ahmet Pasha, and who left them in charge of his Excellency's Diwitdar (a civil officer) at Kissove, five leagues from hence, in order to announce their arrival. They have all come since in safety, including eight Sheiks, four of whom have received robes of honour.

The wanton conduct of the irregulars have prevented Emir Emin Raslan and Said Bey Djinblat from undertaking the perious journey to this city; but as Mr. Misk has sent Sheik Hussein Abou Assaf, with some cavalry, to escort them here, and Ahmet Pasha has repeated his orders to the troops to protect instead of molesting such as are willing to surrender, I entertain the hope that the two above-mentioned individuals will not retard beyond a couple of days to tender personally their submission.

I have presented the Emir and Sheiks who first submitted to his Excellency, who received them with courtesy, and presented them each with a shawl as a mark of distinction. He has, moreover, liberated at my request Sheik Arian Abdul Melek, the father of Sheik Youssef, who is now with his son, as well as the relatives of Shibli-el-Arian.

The above-mentioned individuals having assured me that their followers amounted to two thousand men, and that the people of the Haouran and a section of the Arabs were determined to join them, in the event the Turkish troops attacked them, I have procured another bouyourouldi, giving the option to such as are desirous of doing so, of either returning in security to their homes in Lebanon, or of remaining in the villages of this Pashalic as guests, so long as it suited their convenience; as well as orders to the troops in the Haouran, and to the Emir Hangiar and Moustafa Bey to return to their respective posts in the Bekaa and Baalbeck.

The principal Emirs and Sheiks being now the guests of this Consulate, I may be permitted to announce to your Lordship the complete termination of the Lebanon insurrection; and although I will refrain from stating the various reasons which have induced me to take such a direct part in bringing about an accommodation, not to trespass too much on your Lordship's patience, yet I dare venture, very respectfully, to express a hope that I have acted conformably to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government. inasmuch as, by co-operating openly with Ahmet Pasha, at his Excellency's request, in bringing about so desirable an object, British influence has justly increased, whilst I have served at the same time the real interests of the Porte.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 190.

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*Ahmet Pasha's Pledge of Indemnity to the Emir Emin Raslan, Emir Assaad Kadem Shehaby, Said Bey Djinblat, Melkem Aga Amad, Sheiks of the Family of Talhouk, Sheiks of the House Abdul Melek, and to all the other Chiefs of Lebanon actually in the Haouran, in general.*

(Translation.)

KNOW ye, that it having been represented to us that you have returned to your allegiance to our Sublime Porte, and that you implore in consequence our pardon and security, we send to you this our pledge of indemnity, in virtue of which we grant to you in the name of the Sublime Porte, and in our name, full security, with the consent of the Almighty, and of his illustrious Prophet; a security which will not be violated, neither in regard to you, neither in regard to your blood, neither in regard to your adherents, neither in regard to your property, neither in regard to your women and children, nor, in general, in regard to all those who accompanied you from Shoof.

We have already solicited of the Sublime Porte a Firman of Amnesty for you; in the mean time, with the grace of God, we invite you here in virtue of this our solemn pledge and pardon of security, when we will dispatch an express courier to the Sublime Porte to repeat our demand that you may live in peace and quietness. We will cause you to be furnished with positive orders of the royal pardon and forgiveness, which will be honourable of itself to the Sublime Porte.

Be, therefore, under no fear or apprehension, neither allow yourselves to be troubled by any timid sensation; on the receipt of this our pledge of indemnity, delay not a moment to come to us, when, by the aid of God, you will enjoy every tranquillity and repose, and you will experience the happy effects of justice, peace, and tranquillity under the shadow of the Sublime Porte. Expel, therefore, all timidity and doubt of every kind.

We recommend to you fervently to note the foregoing, and to have full confidence, &c., &c.

(L.S.)

AHMET.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 190.

*The Austrian and British Consuls at Damascus to Ahmet Pasha.*

(Translation.)

*Damascus, December 19, 1842.*

WE have the honour to state to your Excellency that we have received positive intelligence from persons of confidence, that two thousand of the four thousand individuals who absconded from Mount Lebanon, Hasheya and Rasheya, proceeded to the Haouran, from whence they decided to repair to Bagdad, with the intention of screening themselves under the shadow of his Excellency Nejib Pasha's clemency, which decision they would never have taken, had his Excellency Assaad Pasha assured them of his pardon, and had he extended out to them a succouring hand of mercy and of security, the same as has been practised by your Excellency towards those who returned to their allegiance, confiding in the well-known benignity of your Excellency.

Undoubtedly every sensible person knows that the Sublime Porte will never permit the destruction and the extermination of the two thousand afore-stated men, in consequence of an inconsiderate procedure, which is repugnant to its enlarged views, and to its well-known justice towards its subjects. We, therefore, as agents of two Governments, in close alliance with the Sublime Porte, animated with the hope of a happy result, invoke the pity and the benevolence of your Excellency in favour of these unfortunate men, who are about to expatriate themselves on account of the too great severity of his Excellency Assaad Pasha, who has failed to have recourse to those lenient measures in their behalf, which are in conformity with the humane sentiments of the Sublime Porte; in consequence of which he has alienated them from him, and has induced them to take refuge within the jurisdiction of your Excellency, knowing well the generosity with which you

treat the subjects of the Sublime Porte, to solicit your Excellency's pardon for what has occurred, and to beg that they may be furnished with a pledge of indemnity in the name of the Sublime Porte, having called to mind the affable and excellent comportment of your Excellency towards those who have the happiness to be under your government, and who live in peace, whilst matters are different in the neighbouring provinces; which fact ought to be a double inducement to your Excellency to heal the wounds inflicted by others with the balsam of your wise administration, and which can only be effected by causing the fugitives to return to their country and to their homes in submission, and according to the desire and intention of the Sublime Porte. It behoves your Excellency, in consequence, to pardon all by issuing a general pledge of indemnity and of security, that they may be tranquillised and may be persuaded to return to their dwellings, which would redound to the honour of the Sublime Porte.

By acting thus, your Excellency will acquire the merit of having saved these unfortunate men, and which will be rewarded hereafter by the Almighty, whilst you will gain now the esteem of every benevolent person, as well as the approbation of your Government for so praiseworthy an action, which cannot but be rewarded when effected by a person of the rank and position of your Excellency.

(Signed)

RICHARD WOOD,  
G. G. MERLATO.

Inclosure 4 in No. 190.

*Ahmet Pasha's Bouyourouldi of General Amnesty.*

(Translation.)

**MOST** illustrious Princes and noble Sheiks in general, who are at present in the neighbourhood of the Haouran, as well as you their relatives and adherents; after saluting you, Know ye that Emir Assaad Kadam, Kassim Bey, Abuneked, Sheik Yoossef, Abdul Melek, and Sheik Mansour-el-Kadi, have come to us in consequence of the pledge of indemnity furnished them in the name of the Sublime Porte and in our name at their prayer for pardon, forgiveness and security, which we have granted them, together with other distinctions, in order to attach them to us.

As they have represented to us, however, that the rest of the Sheiks are coming to-day or to-morrow, in virtue of a previous pledge of general amnesty, which has induced some of you to come immediately and the rest hereafter, we have thought it expedient to issue this our pledge of general indemnity, in accordance with the imperial sentiments and royal clemency.

For your tranquillity, we renew our pardon and security, with the consent of God and his illustrious Prophet; a security which is neither in our power to violate or to change. By the grace of the Almighty you will enjoy tranquillity and peace of mind, and by the shadow of the universal imperial clemency, you will reside in your homes in full security and ease.

We have issued our orders to the commanders of the victorious imperial troops, to the chiefs of the irregulars, and to the inhabitants of the Haouran and of Geidour, to notify to them the pardon and security we have granted you in regard to the past, and we have directed them, moreover, to abstain from molesting any of you or your followers under any pretext whatever.

Your numerous adherents from Mount Lebanon, to whom a general amnesty has been already given, are free either to come to us or to return to their homes, or to remain as guests in these parts for a few days, as it may suit their individual convenience.

Each and all of you, by the magnanimity and benevolence of the Sublime Porte, will be happy and quiet. Be not, therefore, uneasy on any account, but let gladness be in your hearts; for, with the aid of the Almighty, you will all return to your homes in peace and quietness.

(L.S.)

AHMET.

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No. 191.

*Colonel Rose to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 6, 1843)*

My Lord,

*Beyrout, December 15, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose your Lordship copies of my despatches to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, of the 12th and 15th of December.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 191.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Beyrout, December 12, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 7th December, with its inclosure.

The appearance of Her Majesty's ship "Devastation," so soon after hopes had been held out of the favourable settlement of the Lebanon Question, created a great excitement amongst all classes. She came with great speed from Smyrna in sixty hours.

I lost no time in making known, agreeably to your Excellency's instructions, the important contents of his Excellency Sarim Effendi's letter to my colleagues for their confidential information.

I then, availing myself of the discretionary power, which your Excellency was pleased to entrust to me, reflected what course I had best pursue next. To make a guarded and limited communication of the substance of the Turkish Minister's note, to a few of the most respectable and trustworthy inhabitants was desirable, and that object was attained by stating, that it had been settled that the Christians were to have a Christian, and the Druses a Druse Governor; but I felt that your Excellency would wish that in making communications, which must more or less become public, I should not overlook the supreme Turkish authority in this country, Assaad Pasha, who by his high office, friendly bearing and moderation, was in every way entitled to be made acquainted with information, which so nearly affected him, and those confided to him. Besides any act of leniency towards the Druses, now hurrying in dread of his vengeance from their homes, and their all, must come from him; but neither I nor my colleagues, with whom I wished to act in perfect harmony, could have a claim to request him to exercise that act, unless I showed him respect and confidence by telling him the main features of his Excellency Sarim Effendi's letter; so I did, leaving unmentioned those parts, which I thought it possible might induce his Excellency to endeavour to fulfil the forebodings of his Government, that the arrangement would not produce peace; and I was of course mainly guided by the spirit of your Excellency's dispatch to me, and your desire to maintain tranquillity, and prevent the effusion of blood. I took the greatest care to avoid anything approaching to exultation at the success of Her Majesty's Government, and your Excellency's representations, observing generally that there had been, as all knew, differences of opinion, which had yielded to the cordial mutual good will and great prudence of Her Majesty's and the Sultan's Governments. The result of my proceeding was a most friendly and confidential conversation on the part of Assaad Pasha, and expression of sincere thanks on his part to me for the communication.

His Excellency told me that on his, Assaad Pasha's arriving at Beyrout, the Seraskier, Mustapha Pasha, just before he left Syria, requested him to write to him a letter, stating that the country "was quite tranquil;" that out of compliment to the Seraskier, he did so, writing what he called, "a letter of Uniform," taking the precaution to write another to his Government, telling them the reason for which he had given the letter to the Seraskier, and informing them at the same time, "that so far from finding the country in a state of peace, it was on the eve of war; that even in Latakia, he had heard of the serious collision near Tripoli." He also blamed the Seraskier for taking the men-of-war away from Beyrout. Thus we see the Seraskier accused, and convicted of wilful misrepre-

sentations by Assaad Pasha, a faithful Mushir, of between forty and fifty years' standing.

His Excellency added that he had promised an amnesty to all the Druses, except Shibli-el-Arian, Youssuff Abd-el-Melek, and the Emir Emin Raslan: that Sheik Said Djinblat had been pardoned, and was about to return to Beyrout; that the three Chiefs, with about fifteen hundred or two thousand men, had concentrated in the Anti-Lebanon, near and in Rasheya, and that he had ordered to move against them two thousand men from Damascus, two thousand from Baalbeck, two thousand, of which one thousand were Albanians, and one thousand Nizams, from Deir-el-Kammar.

After this interview, I saw my colleagues. I told them of the exclusion of the three Druse Chiefs from the amnesty, of the march of the Turkish troops against them, of the certain effusion of blood, of the possible discomfiture of the Turks, which we all agreed was to be apprehended, for the six thousand men were moving on different and independent lines in bad weather, through an intricate country, far from their present bases of operations and their resources, against an enemy famous for his desultory warfare. Omar Pasha, to whom was solely attributable the late success of the Turks, was not employed, and himself expressed his doubts of the prudence of the movement.

I therefore suggested to my colleagues, whether the interests of the Ottoman Government, and of humanity, and the knowledge which we had obtained of the pacific resolution of the Porte, by means of your Excellency's singularly well-timed transmission of the intelligence of it, did not justify on our part an attempt to stop further hostilities, by suggesting that the amnesty, which had been promised to the Druses, should be general. They having all viewed the matter as I did, we agreed to visit Assaad Pasha separately; but, as we had but little time, we accidentally met.

The Pasha listened to our observations in a friendly spirit. He remarked that if he gave ten days, the term proposed to the insurgents to disperse, they would gain time to strengthen themselves. We, allowing that his objection was prudent, then mentioned three days. He said, "I have reported all my proceedings, and the exclusion of the three Sheiks from the amnesty, to my Government, how can I now well change?" We observed that his Excellency did not then know that his Government had given a solution to the question of the Lebanon from which the present disorders emanated; that his Excellency, a victor, could show mercy without compromising his dignity; that if the Druses even were unsuccessful, they would commence a war of brigandage, hurting trade and endangering the public security. The result was that his Excellency agreed to give us an answer by twelve o'clock the next day.

In the course of the conversation, M. Basili stated that Selim Pasha had incited the Druses to make the civil war on the Christians. On a former occasion, this gentleman stated that he had written proof of the same. The same proof exists as to the same conduct on the part of Nejib Pasha. Assaad Pasha did not deny M. Basili's charge.

At the time appointed, Suliman Bey, by Assaad Pasha's order, gave my colleagues and myself his Excellency's answer, which was, "That all his, Assaad Pasha's, former acts of concession considered, he could not include in the amnesty the three Druse Chiefs; but that, out of deference to us, he had determined to send off a Tatar to them with a message, that if, on the receipt of it, they delivered up their persons to the officer commanding the troops, he engaged not to harm their persons, properties, or families; but that he would send them to Constantinople, to be sent from thence wherever his Government chose; that if, as was possible, hostilities were actually commenced, still the tatar was to deliver the message, which would still be binding, if accepted."

It is clear that the Pasha feels himself strong, or that, too, made confident by a success mainly attributable to Omar Pasha, he contemplates with tolerable security the chances of war. M. Bourrée states that Shibli-el-Arian has three thousand men under him.

I have only very much to regret that Assaad Pasha did not follow our suggestion; for it is idle to suppose that Shibli-el-Arian, who withstood Ibrahim Pasha and his force, would give himself up as an exile.

Unless the Porte does adopt some conciliatory measures, a long and desultory warfare, ruinous to the country, may take place.

My colleagues expressed the greatest satisfaction at the humanity and



prudence which had been exhibited by your Excellency, in transmitting so rapidly to Syria the important intelligence of the Porte's pacific determination.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 191.

*Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Beyrout, December 15, 1842.*

I HAVE great satisfaction in announcing to your Excellency an occurrence which holds out the best prospects of peace.

I have just received a letter from Mr. Wood, dated 11th, Damascus, who says, "Nezmy-el-Arian was in town yesterday, and left the same day with a bouyourouldi for his uncle;" and afterwards, at the close of the letter dated the 12th instant, he says, "Shibli came in this morning to offer his submission, and was well received by the Pasha. The rest, about 1600, are gone to Djebail-el-Sheik."

Assaad Pasha, to whom I gave this intelligence, and who had not received the letter which announced it to him, afterwards sent his Dragoman to inform me that he had received a report from Ahmet Pasha, confirming Mr. Wood's intelligence. His Excellency requested me to obtain a delay of the departure of Her Majesty's ship "Devastation," which Captain Walpole, with his usual consideration for my requests, granted. Assaad Pasha wishes to send a tatar with the intelligence of the good news to Constantinople.

His Excellency informed me also that the Emir Emin Raslan and Youssuf Abd-el-Melek, the two remaining Chiefs excluded from the amnesty, had gone to Damascus, with the intention of making submission to Ahmet Pasha.

Thus the pacific determination of the Porte has been followed by a pacific proceeding on the part of the insurgent subjects, and a great share of the credit for their having done so must be due to your Excellency, for the decision and promptitude with which you transmitted news so well calculated to inspire confidence and tranquillity. The Foreign Agents and others here cheerfully bestow this tribute on whom it is due; and to me, your Excellency's humble assistant, it is a most pleasing duty to be the channel of communication of such pleasing intelligence.

The idea that Mohamed Pasha succeeded in gaining over Shibli-el-Arian by money, gains ground.

Assaad Pasha states that he had commissioned the Pasha to offer him the arrears of pay which he claimed, as well as the Government of Hasbeya and Rasheya,—two inducements which at any time would outweigh the feelings of imaginary patriotism, which, as it suits his convenience, Shibli allows to influence his actions.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

No. 192.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Consul Wood.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, February 28, 1843.*

WITH reference to your despatches of the 18th and 26th of December, reporting the measures which you had taken with regard to the Druse insurgents, I have to state to you that, although Her Majesty's Government do full justice to the motives which led you to interpose in that matter, and, under the circumstances, approve of your decision, they nevertheless think it advisable that you should henceforth abstain from any such interposition between the Turkish authorities and the parties who may be opposed to them. You will not, however, err in pressing upon the Turkish authorities the expediency of dealing with the inhabitants of Syria, under all circumstances, with moderation, humanity, and forbearance.

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From the interest which Her Majesty's Government feel in the tranquillity of Syria, they will not absolutely prohibit you from communicating between the Turkish authorities and the inhabitants of that country, at the request of the former; but I have strictly to enjoin you on no account to pledge yourself to any party whatever, directly or indirectly, for the performance of any engagements into which either Turks or Syrians may profess a disposition to enter.

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No. 193.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, February 28, 1843.*

I INCLOSE, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Consul Wood, in reply to his reports respecting his interference between the Turkish authorities and the Druse insurgents; and I have to instruct you to consider the principle laid down in that despatch as equally applicable to your own proceedings, and to warn you against making yourself in any way responsible for the performance of any engagements into which Turks or Syrians may profess a disposition to enter.

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the appointment, as Prince of Mount Lebanon, of a Pasha who should be neither a Maronite nor a Druse, but of the Turkish nation. One, Omar Pasha, who has been some time in those parts, and knows the language of the country, has been appointed instead of Emir Beshir.' ”

M. Pisani adds, that Omar Pasha is a General of Brigade in the Turkish regular army.

I cannot, for the present, afford your Lordship any further information upon this subject, although it is not unreasonable to presume that the appointment of Omar Pasha may be connected with the deputation of Druses, who, it appears, arrived here about three weeks ago. Sarim Effendi, with whom I had some private unofficial conversation yesterday, told me that Mustapha Pasha was to send in his report to the Government here, and that authority to act conclusively would then be given to him. He also spoke in high terms of Nejib Pasha of Damascus, which leads me to apprehend that the execution of your Lordship's instructions respecting him will continue to meet with a degree of opposition not easy to be overcome.

I have, &c..  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 36.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, February 24, 1842.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 24th of January, reporting the arrival at Constantinople of the Emir Beshir El-kassim, and your conversation with Sarim Effendi respecting the removal of the Emir from the Government of the Lebanon.

Her Majesty's Government do not feel themselves entitled to call in question the propriety of the decision which the Porte has come to in this respect. The character of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim seems to be unsuited for the arduous task of governing the Lebanon in the present state of parties in that district. But Her Majesty's Government cannot forget the conduct of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim, at the period when their efforts were united with those of the Turkish Government for the restoration of Syria to the direct authority of the Sultan. The alacrity which the Emir Beshir El-Kassim displayed in joining the standard of the Sultan, the zeal and the courage with which he co-operated with the allied forces, while they obtained for him from his Sovereign the important trust of Governor of the Lebanon, impressed Her Majesty's Government with a high sense of his merits. The Porte cannot have forgotten how much the Sultan is indebted to the example set by the Emir Beshir El-Kassim, and to his faithful services, for the speedy re-establishment of the Sultan's power in Syria; and Her Majesty's Government, therefore, feel confident that, although circumstances may have rendered necessary his removal from office, the Porte will secure to him an honourable asylum in any part of the Sultan's dominions in which he may choose to reside, and will take care that he has full enjoyment of his liberty and of his property.

Your Excellency will have the goodness to bear in mind, on all occasions, that so long as the Emir Beshir El-Kassim acts as a faithful subject of the Sultan, you will be authorized to exert your good offices with the Porte in his behalf.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 7.)*

(Extract.)

*Constantinople, February 9, 1842.*

THE present state of Syria is calculated to excite so deep an interest that, although I am not at liberty to enter completely into the merits of the question now, I am, nevertheless, unwilling to leave Her Majesty's Government in ignorance of what is passing here with respect to it. I therefore avail myself of the Vienna post to offer your Lordship a few words upon the subject, but rather in the way of statement than of remark.

I have felt from the first, that whatever may be the demerits of the late Emir Beshir El-Kassim, his sudden and arbitrary removal, accompanied with the appointment of a Turkish Governor in his place, would, sooner or later, call for the interference of some or all of the Allied Powers. I was reluctant, however, to put myself forward immediately on my arrival here, in a matter which would naturally place me in opposition to the Turkish Government. No step which I could have taken when the Emir Beshir was brought into the port of Constantinople, presented a chance of producing any immediate change, either in his position, or in that of the country from which he had been torn. It was evident that what had been done, had been done advisedly, and that any impression of a counteracting character to be made upon the Turkish Government, was more likely to be made with effect after an interval of reflection, than in the first heat of success. I therefore determined to wait for further advices from Syria, and to abstain from committing myself towards any of the parties who are immediately interested in the affairs of Mount Lebanon, and some of whom were not slow in applying for my assistance.

With respect to the Porte, I confined myself to making inquiries of the Reis Effendi in the first instance, and subsequently to submitting confidentially to him such objections to the plan adopted by Mustapha Pasha as might prepare his Excellency, after what I knew that he must have heard from the Austrian and French Legations upon the same subject, for some official declaration of opinion, should it become necessary for me to anticipate your Lordship's instructions in so important a matter.

Within the last three or four days I have found reasons to satisfy my judgment, that it would be neither safe nor creditable for Her Majesty's Embassy to remain in a state of apparent indifference to those interests which have been so deeply compromised by the late proceedings of Mustapha Pasha. But while I recognize the expediency, I might almost say the necessity, of taking some steps expressive of an opinion in support of the Christian privileges violated by the Seraskier, I am most anxious to manifest all due consideration for the sovereignty of the Porte, and to keep entire that cordial good understanding between Her Ministers and myself to which I naturally attach the highest importance.

The present occasion, as I have already observed, does not admit of my entering into a full explanation of the views and reasons which have guided me to a decision upon this point. Among the circumstances, however, which have exercised a powerful influence over my mind, the promises made in Syria, both at the close as well as in the beginning of the late contest there; the decided opinions of the Austrian and French Ministers; the opinions not less decisive of our own agents on the spot, especially of Mr. Wood; and the difficulty of longer postponing an answer to the applications of the deposed Emir and the Maronite Representatives, may be mentioned in general as taking a prominent place.

The suggestion, by which I have endeavoured to meet the views of my Colleagues, as well as the exigencies of the case, without overlooking what is due to the Porte, is simply this,—to take the recent change of Government in Mount Lebanon as a mere provisional arrangement, warranted by the exasperation of the conflicting parties, but to be fol-

lowed without loss of time by a return to the old form of government; and to endeavour to obtain an assurance to that effect from the Porte for the satisfaction of our respective Governments. In order to carry out this idea, it has been necessary for me to communicate not only with the Internuncio, but with the Russian, French, and Prussian Representatives. The Internuncio and myself being both confined by indisposition to our respective houses, this has been rather a difficult matter to accomplish, especially as I am aware it is not your Lordship's intention to authorize the establishment of a conference of Ambassadors here; but the result of our communication is an understanding that we shall each send our interpreters to read to the Reis Effendi, and to the Grand Vizier respectively, an instruction, not similar in expression, but identical as to the purport which I have already had the honour to describe.

This agreement will, I trust, be carried into effect in the course of to-morrow, and I inclose herewith, for your Lordship's further information, a copy of the instruction which I have myself drawn up for the guidance of M. Pisani.

I have only to express, in conclusion, the earnest hope that the course which I have thus ventured to adopt, under difficult and unforeseen circumstances, may meet with the approbation of Her Majesty's Government, and that in taking the lead which I should probably soon have been compelled to follow, I have best consulted the interests of my position here, as well as those considerations which affect the credit of the British name, and the welfare of the Christians, to say nothing of the Druses themselves, in Syria.

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Inclosure in No. 37.

*Instructions from Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.*

Monsieur,

*Constantinople, 9 Février, 1842.*

JE vous invite de vous rendre à la Porte, et dès qu'il vous sera permis de voir le Reis Effendi, vous ferez lecture à son Excellence de ce qui suit.

La même bienveillance envers la Porte Ottomane dont le Gouvernement Britannique a donné tant de preuves, surtout en ce qui regarde la Syrie, lui impose encore le devoir de veiller à ce que la tranquillité de cette province soit assise sur les bases profondes et solides qui ont été convenues. Fidèle à ce principe, l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté a appelé itérativement l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur les troubles qui, non-obstant la conclusion de la paix, confirmée depuis par les Six Cabinets, ensanglantaient les flancs du Mont Liban, en menaçant de nuire à leur œuvre pacifique; et la Cour de Londres devait apprendre avec plaisir l'envoi à Beirout du Seraskir Mustafa Pacha, accompagné de troupes et muni des pouvoirs nécessaires pour arrêter le cours du mal. En effet, la présence de ce haut fonctionnaire a suffi pour maintenir la cessation d'hostilités qui avait à peine devancé son arrivée sur les lieux. Mais d'autres événemens y sont survenus. Nous avons vu destituer par une sentence soudaine et arbitraire l'Emir Béchir-el-Kassim, qui avait été appelé à gouverner les tribus de la Montagne dans une époque où la loyauté et la bravoure du prince et du peuple furent également mises à l'épreuve. Nous l'avons ensuite vu arriver à Constantinople non seulement destitué de sa charge, mais privé de sa décoration et de sa fortune, éloigné de ses foyers, de ses amis, de sa famille. En même temps nous apprenons, qu'en dépit des promesses faites avec beaucoup de solennité, et en violation des privilèges consacrés par l'usage de plus d'un siècle, un Pacha Musulman nommé par le Seraskir, a succédé au pouvoir délégué des Emirs, et réside pour la première fois, comme gouverneur, à Deir-el-Kammar.

On ne veut pas jeter une ombre de doute sur les bonnes intentions qui ont dû dicter ces divers actes de son Excellence le Seraskir. On aime à croire qu'ils étaient prescrits par l'urgence des circonstances,

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et qu'ils sont même de nature à contribuer pour le moment au maintien de la paix en Syrie. Les explications officieuses dont le Reis Effendi a bien voulu honorer l'Ambassadeur à plus d'une reprise, font foi de l'exactitude de ces impressions.

Mais ce n'est pas assez d'étancher le sang, ou de tenir les passions en suspens par l'interposition de quelque nouveauté faite plutôt pour étonner que pour satisfaire les esprits à la longue. Il faut quelque chose de plus solide, de plus durable. Il faut consulter non seulement les convenances du moment, les haines d'un parti, ou l'intérêt de quelques chefs, mais les habitudes de la population, les besoins des lieux, les rapports naturels de l'ordre social, les sentimens intarissables du cœur humain, et les principes éternels de la justice; par-dessus tout, faut-il prendre à tâche de bien juger la proportion qui existe entre les moyens de maintenir, et les motifs de renverser, une nouvelle autorité, ébauchée à la hâte, et opposée aux préjugés de la masse de tous les partis.

L'avenir que l'état actuel des choses offre à la vue, n'est guère riant. Il est à peu près certain, qu'après quelques momens de pause, le mécontentement des tribus éclatera avec nouvelle force. La présente union, si toutefois elle est la suite de la nomination d'un gouverneur Musulman, doit finir par réagir contre lui. Le Pacha, attaqué de tous côtés, sera forcé d'avoir recours à des actes de rigueur, qui ne feront qu'alimenter la fureur des montagnards. Il est à concevoir que, poussé par les exigences de sa position à des combats inégaux, il ne compromettra la dignité de son souverain, en même temps que ses efforts embarrassés doivent nécessairement épuiser le trésor de l'Etat.

C'est pour éviter ces malheurs et d'autres qui ne sont pas moins faciles à prévoir, que les véritables amis de la Porte croient devoir fixer son attention sur cette importante matière. Ils se sont faits une règle de ne pas critiquer le choix personnel que son Excellence le Séraskir a fait en nommant le premier un Gouverneur Musulman au Mont Liban, malgré que les circonstances les en auraient pleinement justifiés. Mais ils espèrent qu'ils ne portent pas trop loin leur confiance dans la sagesse et la justice de la Sublime Porte, quand ils déclarent leur conviction que l'arrangement actuel est entièrement provisoire, et que les mesures nécessaires seront bientôt prises, sous les ordres de la Sublime Porte, pour reconstruire le Gouvernement local du Mont Liban d'une manière permanente, conformément aux anciens privilèges de ses peuples, et les engagements contractés envers eux.

En quittant le Reis Effendi, Monsieur, vous vous rendrez chez son Altesse le Grand Vizir, à qui aussi vous ferez lecture de cette instruction.

A l'un comme à l'autre de ces Ministres vous aurez soin de manifester de ma part l'espérance que le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse m'autorisera à porter à la connaissance de ma Cour, une réponse conforme aux vœux que je viens de lui adresser par votre canal.

Je suis, &c.,

(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING.

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Constantinople, February 9, 1842.*

**I REQUEST** you to go to the Porte, and when you are permitted to see the Reis Effendi, you will read to his Excellency what follows:—

The same good-will towards the Ottoman Porte of which the British Government have given so many proofs, above all in what concerns Syria, still imposes upon them the duty of seeing that the tranquillity of that province is settled upon the deep-rooted and solid bases which have been agreed upon. True to that principle, Her Majesty's Ambassador has repeatedly called the attention of the Sublime Porte to the disturbances which, notwithstanding the conclusion of peace, since confirmed by the six Cabinets, have deluged Mount Lebanon with blood, threatening to destroy their pacific work; and the Court of London must have learnt with pleasure that the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha had been sent to Beyrout, accompanied by troops, and furnished with the powers



necessary for arresting the progress of the evil. In fact, the presence of that high functionary has been sufficient for the maintenance of the cessation of hostilities which had but just taken place before his arrival on the spot. But other events have succeeded. We have seen the deposition, by a sudden and arbitrary sentence, of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, who had been called upon to govern the tribes of the Mountain at a period when the loyalty and courage of the prince and of the people were equally put to the test. We have seen him afterwards arrive at Constantinople, not only stripped of his office, but deprived of his decoration and of his fortune, removed from his home, from his friends, and from his family. At the same time we learn that, in spite of the promises made with much solemnity, and in violation of the privileges rendered sacred by the custom of more than a century, a Mussulman Pasha, nominated by the Seraskier, has succeeded to the delegated power of the Emirs, and resides, for the first time, as Governor, at Deir-el-Kammar.

It is not desired to throw a doubt upon the good intentions which must have dictated these different acts of his Excellency the Seraskier. It is willingly believed that they were called for by the urgency of circumstances, and that they are even calculated to contrioute, for the moment, to the maintenance of peace in Syria. The informal explanations with which the Reis Effendi has more than once honoured the Ambassador, warrant the correctness of these impressions.

But it is not sufficient to stanch blood, or to keep the passions in suspense by the introduction of some novelty, calculated rather to astonish than to satisfy the minds of people in the long run. Something more solid and more durable is necessary. It is necessary not only to consult the convenience of the moment, the hatred of a party, or the interest of some chiefs, but also the customs of the people, local necessities, the natural relations of society, the unquenchable feelings of the human heart, and the eternal principles of justice; above all, it is necessary to endeavour to judge well the proportion which exists between the means of maintaining, and the reasons for overthrowing, a new authority, hastily put forward, and opposed to the prejudices of the mass of all parties.

The prospect which the present state of things presents is not very cheering. It is almost certain that, after a few moments' pause, the discontent of the tribes will break out with fresh force. The present union, if, indeed, it is the result of the appointment of a Mussulman Governor, must end in a reaction against him. The Pasha, attacked on all sides, will be obliged to have recourse to acts of rigour, which will only nourish the anger of the Mountaineers. It is to be supposed that, driven by the exigencies of his position to an unequal contest, he will compromise the dignity of his Sovereign, while his embarrassed exertions must necessarily exhaust the treasury of the State.

It is in order to avoid these misfortunes, and others which it is not less easy to foresee, that the true friends of the Porte think it their duty to draw its attention to this important subject. They have made it a rule not to animadvert upon the choice which his Excellency the Seraskier has made of the person, on being the first to nominate a Mussulman Governor of Mount Lebanon, although the circumstances would have fully justified them in so doing. But they hope that they do not carry their confidence in the wisdom and justice of the Sublime Porte too far, when they declare their conviction that the present arrangement is entirely provisional, and that the necessary steps will soon be taken, under the orders of the Sublime Porte, for reconstructing the local government of Mount Lebanon in a lasting manner, in accordance with the ancient privileges of its people, and the engagements contracted towards them.

On leaving the Reis Effendi, Sir, you will repair to his Highness the Grand Vizier, to whom also you will read this instruction.

You will be careful to express to both of these Ministers my hope that his Highness's Government will authorize me to convey to my Court an answer in accordance with the wishes which I have expressed to them through you.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 7.)*

(Extract.)

*Constantinople, February 11, 1842.*

I INCLOSE, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of M. Pisani's report of what took place when he read my instruction to the Reis Effendi, and subsequently to the Grand Vizier. It comprises the answer of those Ministers.

The tone and temper of the present Turkish Administration are sufficiently apparent from its tenor.

When the Grand Vizier, referring to the promises made to the chiefs and people of Mount Lebanon, confines his admission to those which were addressed to the old ex-Emir Beshir, he appears to have lost sight of the declaration made by Mr. Wood and Commodore Napier in the beginning of the Syrian operations, nor less so of those promises which Mr. Wood was authorized to renew to the Syrians in May of last year, as well by the Porte as by three at least of the Representatives of the Allies at Court, and of which I find the accompanying memorandum in the archives of the Embassy.

With respect to what his Highness has advanced concerning the Patriarch of the Maronites, I can only say that it does not agree with the language of his agent, who has urged me by verbal and written representations to exert my influence for the restoration of the old form of Government in Mount Lebanon. As bearing upon this part of the subject, I have made some extracts from a letter addressed by Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead on the 18th ultimo, and I beg leave to submit them to your Lordship's particular observation.

Exclusive of the considerations involved in the substitution of a Turkish Pasha for a Christian Prince of the family of Shehab, the personal character of the present Turkish Governor, appointed by Mustapha Pasha, cannot be entirely overlooked. It is enough to state of Omar Pasha that, besides being a renegade, and in that respect an object of contempt to the Turks themselves, I am assured that he was tried for speculation in Syria while the Grand Vizier was there, and that his trial issued in a sentence of condemnation.

Before this despatch can arrive in England your Lordship will probably be in possession of Mr. Wood's despatch of the 27th of January, of which a copy is now upon my table, and to that gentleman's report I may safely refer your Lordship for as just an estimate as can be obtained of the views of the Turkish Government in the whole transaction effected by Mustapha Pasha, of the real feelings of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, and of the eventual consequences likely to result from the recent change.

In justice to Mr. Wood, I must remark, that he alone appears to have had the sagacity to penetrate into the designs of the Porte respecting Syria, before any decisive step had been taken by the Seraskier. In a despatch of the 12th ultimo, addressed to Mr. Bankhead, he observes, that the Commissioners appointed to settle the differences between the Christians and Druses, were taking "advantage of their dissensions to encroach upon their rights, and to establish a Turkish officer in Lebanon, in the room of a Christian Prince."

He goes on to say, that the present Grand Vizier, when Seraskier in Syria, had entertained a similar project, and that Nejib Pasha, of Damascus, was also a firm advocate of the plan; and he continues in the following words, which would seem to be worthy of particular attention: "Besides the probability of the Druses and Christians uniting ultimately, to oppose this new encroachment on their old rights and usages,—a disposition which they have already betrayed, notwithstanding their late differences,—it would be unprofitable, in a financial point of view, since, to maintain the authority of the Turkish Governor in the Mountains, it would require from 6 to 8,000 troops, the expenses of which would surpass four times the revenue of Lebanon."

Upon the whole, my Lord, I cannot look forward without anxiety and apprehension, to the consequences of the new system adopted by the Porte in Syria, especially when I bear in mind the nature and spirit of Turkish authority, the ordinary character of its agents, and the very peculiar circumstances of the Mountain population, whose industry, poverty, and impatience of restraint are alike known to all Europe, and amongst whom the religion of Christ has found for ages a precarious, yet noble asylum, towards which the hopes of the good and the devout of more than one country, have of late been turned with peculiar zeal.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

*M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Excellence,

*Pera, ce 10 Février, 1842.*

J'AI l'honneur de faire savoir à votre Excellence, que j'ai, conformément à ses ordres, vu Sarim Effendi, ainsi que son Altesse le Grand Vizir, et que je leur ai communiqué vos instructions en date d'aujourd'hui.

Sarim Effendi, voyant de quoi il s'agissait, m'a dit qu'il n'avait pas le tems de m'entendre, et qu'il devait rentrer dans la chambre du conseil, d'où il n'était sorti que pour un instant. Mais ce n'était là qu'un prétexte; parceque je voyais bien, par certains mots qu'il laissait échapper, que le sujet des instructions lui faisait de la peine.

Cependant, sur quelques observations que je lui ai faites convenablement, il a consenti à entendre la lecture en Turc des instructions de votre Excellence. J'ai su depuis de mes collègues, MM. les Drogmans d'Autriche, de France, de Prusse, et de Russie, qu'ils ont essuyé les mêmes difficultés de la part du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Quoiqu'il en soit, Sarim Effendi a entendu la lecture de vos instructions, mais il s'est borné à dire qu'il les a parfaitement comprises, et qu'il fera une réponse, après avoir pris les ordres de son Gouvernement. Mais la promesse d'une réponse était faite de manière à ne laisser aucun doute qu'elle ne fût défavorable.

A l'issue du Conseil des Ministres et des Pachas, je suis entré chez le Grand Vizir, à côté duquel j'ai trouvé Sarim Effendi, qui n'a pas dit un seul mot pendant mon entrevue avec son Altesse.

Le Grand Vizir après avoir entendu avec attention les instructions de votre Excellence a pris la parole dans les termes suivans:—

“ Lorsque les troubles ont éclaté en Syrie, nous avons été conseillés par les Puissances, nos amis, de prendre des mesures propres à y rétablir la tranquillité. C'est dans ce but que nous y avons envoyé le Séraskir Pacha. Lorsque celui-ci arriva à Beirout, il y rassembla les notables des habitans des Montagnes. Ceux-ci ont représenté que l'Emir Béchir-el-Kassim était un homme faible, incapable de gouverner; que c'était à son incapacité qu'il fallait même attribuer les troubles et les hostilités qui avaient affligé le pays; ils ont déclaré que jamais la tranquillité ne pourrait s'établir solidement parmi les populations des Montagnes, tant que le Prince du Mont Liban serait choisi parmi les Montagnards; ils ont demandé la déposition de l'Emir Béchir-el-Kassim; et ils ont supplié la Sublime Porte, et de vive voix et par pétitions, de leur faire la faveur de nommer pour Gouverneur du Mont Liban un de ses propres employés. Or, comme il n'y a pas de moyens plus propres à établir le bon ordre et la tranquillité parmi les populations que d'accorder les demandes qu'elles font elles-mêmes, un Pacha a été nommé Gouverneur du Mont Liban.

“ Vous me parlez des privilèges; les seuls dont j'ai connaissance sont ceux que l'Amiral Stopford et moi-même avons accordés sous notre signature au ci-devant Emir Béchir-el-Chéhab, s'il se soumettait à l'autorité du Sultan dans un délai de douze jours. On lui assurait, dans ce cas, sa fortune, son poste de Prince du Mont Liban, et ses prérogatives. Mais cet Emir n'a pas fait sa soumission dans le délai donné; malgré cela, je lui ai accordé quatre jours de plus. Mais, contre mon avis, on s'est em-

pressé de remettre à l'Emir Béchir-el-Kassim le firman qui le nommait Prince. Celui-ci se trouve, dites-vous, privé de sa décoration et de sa fortune. Quant à sa décoration, il a dû en être privé, car n'étant que la marque distinctive de son poste, il ne pouvait plus la conserver après sa déposition ; et, pour sa fortune, si on la lui a enlevée, il n'a qu'à recourir, pour se faire rendre justice, à la Commission établie à Deir-el-Kammar pour les réclamations réciproques des deux partis.

“ L'état actuel des choses n'exige aucun changement. Cependant, si par la suite, il devient nécessaire d'opérer un changement dans le Gouvernement du Mont Liban, la Sublime Porte, ayant affaire à ses propres sujets, prendra à leur égard les mesures qui seront jugées les plus convenables pour opérer un changement.”

J'ai demandé au Grand Vizir si, par un changement, il entendait la nomination d'un Gouverneur pris parmi les tribus, et il m'a répondu affirmativement.

J'ai, &c.,  
(Signé) F. PISANI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

*Pera, February 10, 1842.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, conformably to your orders, I have seen Sarim Effendi, as well as his Highness the Grand Vizier, and that I have communicated to them your instructions dated to-day.

Sarim Effendi, seeing what was the subject, told me that he had not time to listen to me, and that he must go into the council chamber, from whence he had come out only for an instant. But that was only a pretext ; since I clearly saw, by certain words which he let fall, that the subject of the instructions caused him pain.

Nevertheless, on some suitable observations which I made to him, he consented to hear your Excellency's instructions read in Turkish. I have since learnt from my colleagues, the Dragomans of Austria, of France, of Prussia, and of Russia, that they encountered the same difficulties on the part of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Be that as it may, Sarim Effendi heard your instructions read, but he confined himself to saying, that he perfectly understood them, and that he would give an answer, after having taken the orders of his Government. But the promise of an answer was made in a manner not to leave any doubt that it would be unfavourable.

When the Ministers and Pashas came out from the council, I went in to the Grand Vizier, with whom I found Sarim Effendi, who did not say a single word during my interview with his Highness.

The Grand Vizier, after having heard with attention the instructions of your Excellency, took up the conversation in the following terms:—

“ From the time that disturbances broke out in Syria, we have been advised by the Powers, our friends, to take proper measures for establishing tranquillity there. It is for this object that we have sent there the Seraskier Pasha. When he arrived at Beyrout, he assembled the chiefs of the inhabitants of the Mountains. These represented that the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim was a weak man, incapable of governing ; that it was to his incapacity that were to be attributed the troubles and hostilities which had afflicted the country ; they declared that tranquillity never could be established firmly among the people of the Mountain as long as the Prince of Mount Lebanon should be chosen among the Mountaineers ; they demanded the deposition of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim ; and they supplicated the Sublime Porte, both verbally and by petitions, to do them the favour to name as Governor of Mount Lebanon one of her own servants. Now, as there are no better means for establishing good order and tranquillity among the people than to grant the demands which they themselves make, a Pasha has been named Governor of Mount Lebanon.

“ You talk to me of privileges ; those only which I know anything about,

are those which Admiral Stopford and myself granted under our signature to the former Emir Beshir-el-Shehab, if he submitted to the authority of the Sultan within a period of twelve days. In this case, his fortune, his post of Prince of Mount Lebanon, and his prerogatives were assured to him. But this Emir did not make his submission in the given period; notwithstanding that, I gave him four days more. But, against my advice, the delivery to the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim of the firman which named him Prince, was hastened. He, you say, is deprived of his decoration and of his fortune. As for his decoration, he ought to be deprived of it, because, as it was only the distinctive mark of his post, he could not keep it after his deposition; and as for his fortune, if it has been taken from him, he has but to appeal, in order to have justice done to him, to the Commission established at Deir-el-Kammar for the reciprocal claims of the two parties.

The actual state of things does not require any change. Nevertheless, if, hereafter, it becomes necessary to effect a change in the government of Mount Lebanon, the Sublime Porte, having to do with its own subjects, will take, with respect to them, the measures which shall be judged the most fit to effect a change.

I asked the Grand Vizier if, by a change, he meant the nomination of a Governor taken from among the tribes, and he answered in the affirmative.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) F. PISANI.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

*Memorandum of the Propositions made to the Sublime Porte respecting Syria.*

AT a Conference of their Excellencies the Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Stürmer, and M. Titow, it was agreed upon that the following five propositions should be made to the Sublime Porte.

1. That the Turkish Government should execute faithfully the promises it made to the Syrians of re-establishing their ancient rights and privileges in the event that they returned to their allegiance, &c.

The Sublime Porte has declared formally its intention of doing so. Instructions and orders will be transmitted to its officers to allow the Syrians, and particularly the Christians, to enjoy the rights and privileges they enjoyed during the Egyptian Administration, with such modifications as the Turkish law requires.

2. That the Turkish Government should be persuaded to remit all illegal taxes in Syria, as well as all such taxes as were with justice obnoxious to the people.

The Sublime Porte had already transmitted instructions to the above effect; but as it does not appear that they were properly understood, a new Defterdar has been appointed with extraordinary powers to examine into the complaints of the Syrians, remit all illegal taxation, and report his opinion with regard to what ought further to be done to relieve them from unnecessary burdens, &c.

3. That as the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch requested each to have a Kapou Kiaja, the Sublime Porte should be prevailed upon to accede to their request.

The Sublime Porte has complied with their demand, and each is to have his agent to communicate direct with the Ottoman Ministers.

4. That a Ferik should be appointed to the government of Jerusalem, for the special protection of the Christians, &c.

The Sublime Porte has consented to make this special appointment for the tranquillity and happiness of its Rayah subjects, &c.

5. That the Sublime Porte should be induced to reward the Sheiks and other individuals who served faithfully during the war.

The Sublime Porte has given a list of the individuals to be rewarded to his Excellency the Defterdar, with strict orders to reward them on his arrival in Syria.

*Therapia*, May 12, 1841.

(Signed)

RICHARD WOOD.

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## Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

*Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead.*

(Extract.)

*January 10, 1842.*

THE Christians urged that the Sublime Porte had been pleased to promise them, that they should be governed by a Christian Prince. The difference of opinion between Mustapha Pasha and the Christians has become so great, that the Christians wished to avail themselves of the right allowed them by the Sublime Porte, to address an "Ardhil Mahdar" to the sovereign on the subject of their governor, but Mustapha Pasha's representatives have informed them, that his Excellency is "Moostakill," Plenipotentiary, and that he will forward no such petition.

Further attempts have been made to induce the Christians to sign a paper, requesting the Seraskier to name a governor over them, that is a Turkish one over the mountain; and yesterday, a few of the Emirs here present did so, but only in terms which regarded themselves personally. I send you a copy of it. You will see how guarded it is. I understand that those same persons will sign a general petition of Christians for a Christian prince.

Mustapha Pasha overcame the most strenuous opponents, the representatives of the clergy, by placing them out of the list of persons qualified to act in worldly affairs. The Seraskier wrote, on the occasion of a report having been spread that he intended to make a prisoner of the Patriarch with two hundred horse, to his Eminence, to state that he had never intended so to act; but, in the letter, he twice warned the Patriarch to abstain, for the future, from politics, and to obey Omar Pasha; and he made the same intimations to Bishop Tubia and Father John, representatives of the clergy now here.

## No. 39.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 15.)*

(Extract.)

*Constantinople, February 16, 1842.*

I THINK it advisable to submit to your Lordship a copy of the communication which I made upon the affairs of Mount Lebanon to Colonel Rose, immediately after I received the answer of the Grand Vizier to my message thereon. The Austrian and French Ministers, as well as the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, wrote in a similar sense, though with some shades of difference in the expression, to their respective Consuls. I also addressed a despatch of the same purport to Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus.

The object of these communications, as your Lordship will perceive on a perusal of mine, was to obviate the possible effect of any exaggerated reports of our proceedings here upon the tranquillity of the population of Mount Lebanon; and conceiving it, therefore, to be of importance that our statements should reach Syria without loss of time, I applied to Captain Stewart, of Her Majesty's ship "Benbow," to forward them direct to Beyrout, by means of the steam-vessel lying at Suda, and, with this application, I trust that he has by this time complied.



Inclosure in No. 39.

*Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.*

Sir,

*Constantinople, February 11, 1842.*

I HAVE received the despatches which you addressed to Mr. Bankhead relative to the removal of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, and the appointment of Omar Pasha in his place, as Governor of the tribes of Mount Lebanon.

Since his arrival here, I do not understand that the ex-Emir Beshir has experienced any further ill-treatment from the Porte; and, although I am not surprised at his removal from the high station which he appears to have filled so inadequately, I cannot but take an interest in his fate, and feel disposed to render him any assistance in my power towards the recovery of his fortune, and his restoration as a private individual to the land of his birth and connexions.

A greater interest than what relates to his person is, however, invested in the recent changes effected by Mustapha Pasha; I am fully sensible of the importance of that transaction, and cannot, I confess, look forward without anxiety and apprehension to the probable, though, I trust, not immediate consequences of so rash and unexpected an event.

So deep, indeed, are my impressions upon this subject, that, after mature deliberation, I have taken a step at the Porte expressive of my hope that the existing arrangement is not permanent, and that no length of time will elapse before the former system, founded as it was upon the practice of more than a century, and in harmony with the promises given to Syria, shall be substantially restored. A similar step has been taken at the same time, and upon a common understanding between us, though not in a collective form, by the Austrian, Russian, French, and Prussian Legations.

The answer which we have received from the Grand Vizier, though far from satisfactory, is by no means such as to close the door against a more favourable view of the subject at some future period. Much will, of course, depend upon the decision that may be adopted by our respective courts when they shall have obtained an adequate knowledge of the facts of the case, and considered the probable consequences involved in them.

In the mean time it would afford matter of deep regret and concern, if an exaggerated report of our proceedings were to be conveyed to Syria, and to have the effect of agitating the minds and influencing the passions of a too excitable population. It cannot be necessary for me to request that you will employ your best exertions to observe, and, if the case should unfortunately arrive, to counteract any dangerous impressions of this kind, by a temperate and judicious statement of the truth, addressed with every possible degree of caution, to some persons of influence in the mountain, and strictly confined to an unostentatious and confidential form of communication. Whatever be the prevailing sentiments of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, whether Druses or Christians, it is not too much to expect that those who have either promoted or acquiesced in this plan of Mustapha Pasha should be content to wait, in tranquillity and with patience, until the allied Cabinets have time to take cognizance of their situation, and to adopt, should they choose to interfere, such resolutions upon the subject as their sense of duty and the general interest, under a due respect for the sovereignty of the Porte, may prescribe.

I have reason to believe that my colleagues, the Representatives of Austria, France, and Russia, write in a similar sense to their respective Consuls at Beyrout, and we all trust that the same conviction of the importance of acting in these matters with unanimity and uniformity of conduct, which has prevailed among us, will also have its due effect upon you in Syria.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 15.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, February 16, 1842.*

I SUBMIT to your Lordship's consideration the inclosed translation of a letter addressed to me by the ex-Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, and of his memorial to the Grand Vizier. It would appear from an expression in the latter, which I have underlined, that the order for El-Kassim's removal to Constantinople had emanated from the Porte.

I have not thought it advisable to receive a visit from the Emir under the present circumstances, but I have seen his nephew, whom he sent to me for that purpose, and through him I have informed the Emir that, although I cannot interfere to effect his return to power, I should be happy to employ my good offices in hastening the period of his return to Syria, as a private individual, and in obtaining the assistance of the Turkish Government for the recovery of his fortune. This answer appeared to satisfy him, and I have, in consequence, directed M. Pisani to remind the Reis Effendi, and also the Grand Vizier, of the circumstances under which the Emir El-Kassim had been induced to take the Government of Mount Lebanon, and to express a hope that, in consideration of his loyal conduct and the part which Her Majesty's officers and agents had taken in putting him forward, justice and kindness would be exercised towards him on the present occasion.

The Grand Vizier's answer was by no means favourable in the first instance. He spoke harshly of the Emir, described him as a bad man, and accused him of crimes. I directed M. Pisani to remind him that no such charges had been made by the Seraskier, and that they were not borne out by anything which had come to my knowledge. To this representation the Vizier replied with less asperity. He admitted that the Seraskier had not written to him in recommendation of the Emir; he added that he had seen the latter, and had paid him the compliment of offering him a better house to reside in during his detention at Constantinople. There seems to be no disposition to allow of his returning home at present, and, perhaps, there are well-grounded objections to such a measure just now. With respect to his losses, he is referred to the Commission said to be appointed under the superintendence of Omar Pasha, for the settlement of all such questions arising out of the late disturbances in Mount Lebanon. The Reis Effendi asserts, that all property unjustly seized by the Druses will be restored; and, upon receiving a communication of the substance of your Lordship's instruction of December 22, upon the subject of Syria, his Excellency gave the most positive assurances of the benevolent intentions of the Porte towards all classes of its subjects, and defended his Government from the charge of having neglected the advice of Her Majesty's Agents in Syria; but, together with these assurances stand the facts of Omar Pasha's appointment, and of Nejib Pasha's maintenance in office, notwithstanding the numerous representations which have been made against him.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

*The Ex-Emir Beshir-el-Kassim to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Translation.)

After Titles and Compliments.

*January 31, 1842.*

IN expressing an attachment to your exalted Government, we beg to state to your Excellency that we have not ceased to perform our duties faithfully towards the British Government, according to the letter to us

of Commodore Napier and Mr. Wood herewith inclosed. We have promoted the service of the Ottoman Porte, and we have not ceased, during the last year and a half, to perform our duty faithfully towards it, as we were ordered. We inclose you a copy of our petition to the Grand Vizier on our grievances, for your Excellency's information, stating briefly what has happened to us, and there is no refuge for us, after God, but your Excellency. Therefore, we intreat your Excellency's good offices, for the performance of the promises to us for the restoration of our property, and we earnestly look to your Government for a recompense of our services.

Trusting you will grant our request, &c.

(Signed)

BESHIR SHEHAB.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

*Petition presented by the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim to the Grand Vizier.*

(Translation.)

WE humbly make known to your Highness, that we your servant, from the time we received the royal firman nominating us to honourable service, have acted according to the obligations of our allegiance, and with all obedience and due respect.

We have done all in our power, according to the best of our ability, to act up to the wishes of the Sublime Porte, may the Lord of creatures protect and cherish it.

With the assistance of the Most High God, and presence of your Highness, the Egyptian troops were without difficulty driven from Syria, and every success obtained, as is well known to your Highness. After this, I remained in the field for about five months, but returned to the mountains, upon your servant receiving an order to that effect. We there restrained the lawless spirit of the inhabitants, and prevented any one having communication with, or receiving money (from the Egyptian Government). We established a free passage through the country, and secured the tranquillity of the inhabitants in conformity with the Imperial mandate, which was obeyed, and I have ever continued to act up to.

When the Royal mandate was received, ordering that certain measures should be taken for ameliorating the condition of the people and the country, the inhabitants of the mountains were assembled, and the Royal edict was read, and the Council resolved to act up to it. Afterwards their Excellencies Mahomed Reshid Pasha and Mustapha Pasha arrived, and assembled the Chiefs of the mountains, who (*i. e.* the Chiefs) came to the determination in their Excellencies' presence, not to pay to the Government any tribute, though they declared that, as servants of the Sublime Porte, they had the right of levying a tax upon the people, and that they could not accede to the orders (of the Sublime Porte), and to the regulations about paying tribute.

Your servant then spoke, in the presence of their Excellencies, to the following effect,—that it was urgent upon them to act in all matters, in conformity with the Royal and just mandates, and that every one should pay according to his means as was required in the Supreme mandate: this, my counsel, not being listened to, we went together to Beyrout, and to the Divan of Saïda, at which the Mushir presided. It was then determined to pay 3,500 purses of tribute. After which decision, your servant was obliged to go to Deir-el-Kammar, to give orders about collecting this tax, and there, as soon as it became known to your servant, that the Chiefs of the mountains were disposed to conduct themselves in a rebellious manner, your servant petitioned the Mushir to send some troops from Beyrout and Saïda to terrify the afore-mentioned rebels; his Excellency promised to accede to my wishes, but did not keep his promise. After this the Mushir came to the palace of your servant in Deir-el-Kammar, and I again begged his Excellency, on many occasions, to reinforce us with a battalion of troops, to assist in collecting promptly the taxes and to prevent rebellion,—our counsels were not listened to, and

from this negligence, the audacious Chiefs of the Druse nation assembled with their followers, and kindled the flame of war upon us, and upon our people. What followed of plunder, massacre, and destruction of property by fire, is well known to your Highness; and your servant made again a supplication to the Mushir for succour, which, if he had given, tranquillity would have been restored, and the flame of war extinguished; our petition was not listened to, and we were besieged and held our ground firm for four days; afterwards arrived his Excellency Ayoob Pasha, on the part of the Mushir, to put down the war,—the Chiefs of the Druses having then satiated themselves with plunder, &c. ceased from war, and his Excellency returned to Beyrout. We then again requested that a battalion of soldiers might be sent to protect our person and that of our followers, and to keep down the rebellion; but after two days Said-Abd-el-Salat Hamedi of Beyrout, and Selim Bey, having in their hands an order from his Highness the Mushir, desired me to go to Beyrout.

Not trusting to the rebels, I requested the aforesaid Bey and Muhassil to procure for me a pass from the chiefs of the Druses, Hamood and Nasif, to prevent our being molested. This pass was obtained, but they deceived us; for on leaving our palace, we and our followers were plundered of all we possessed in arms, clothes, and money, to the amount of 500,000 piastres; and this treachery took place in the presence of the Bey and the Muhassil.

On our arrival at Beyrout, we thought that his Excellency the Mushir would have made some arrangement for our security, as being in the royal service, but this hope was not realized.

Afterwards his Highness sent the Muhassil with some troops to Deir-el-Kammar; but from this measure no benefit accrued. War and troubles increased, and I was ordered to remain at Beyrout, which his Highness, at the desire of the Druse chiefs, had assented to; and they (the Druses) gained strength.

And after that we were at Beyrout, it became convenient for the Muhassil, without cause or necessity, to meet the wishes of the rebels, who formerly were in arms against the Sublime Porte, assisting the Egyptian Government; and it has been made known to your Highness that, notwithstanding the succour we had petitioned for to the Mushir, our wishes were not hearkened to. When, if they had been, all these troubles would not have taken place, neither would your servant, as an agent of the Imperial Government been dishonoured by being plundered.

I was the first to obey the Imperial mandate, even to the shedding of my blood, and have ever acted up to my duty; but the Mushir notwithstanding, has taken from me the Nishan, and confined me in prison for four days; and afterwards arrived the Imperial order that I should go to *Stamboul*, and I have since remained here, awaiting the orders of your Highness; and I beg you will regard me with favour, and that your Highness will do what you deem right for me, and restore to me what I have lost, as is the custom, in the clemency of the Sublime Porte towards their servants.

#### No. 41.

#### *The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 16, 1842.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches of the 9th and 11th of February, reporting the communications which your colleagues of Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, at your instigation, and simultaneously with you, had severally made to the Porte, respecting the late change of Government in Mount Lebanon; and stating the reasons which had induced you to take the first step in that matter.

I have the satisfaction to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the course which you have taken; and they

agree with you in considering that it was most advisable to treat the measure of the Porte as a temporary expedient, forced upon the Turkish Government by the absolute necessity of a decided conduct on their part, in attempting to re-establish order in Mount Lebanon.

It is impossible to deny that the sanguinary conflict which had recently been carried on in that district, and the violent animosity which had been displayed both by the Christians and the Druses, called for the powerful interposition of their common Sovereign. Whatever may be the amount of blame with which the Turkish authorities in Syria can be charged for their indifference to the contest while actually in progress, it can scarcely be questioned that the immediate establishment of the supremacy of one of the contending parties, before the passions which had actuated them had time to subside, would probably, at no distant day, have led to a renewal of the struggle. Viewing it, therefore, as a temporary expedient, Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to say that the Porte was not justified in assuming the direct rule over the whole of Mount Lebanon: but Her Majesty's Government would very much lament that the Porte should make any permanent change in the Government of the Lebanon which should have the effect of depriving the family of Shehab of the prominent position in that Government which it has so long enjoyed.

Her Majesty's Government are inclined to think that when the incapacity of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim to govern the Lebanon had been made so evident, the Porte was not bound to maintain him in office, at the risk of rendering the re-establishment of order impossible: although they cannot but be of opinion that the Porte, in consideration of the eminent services of the Emir, ought not to have effected his removal in the harsh and abrupt manner in which it was brought about. They trust, however, that the representations which, in my despatch of the 24th of February, I instructed your Excellency to make to the Turkish Government in his behalf, will have produced an improvement in his condition, and have led to his being reinstated in his property.

Assuming, then, that the Porte may be willing, when peace is restored in the Lebanon, again to intrust the administration of affairs in that district to the family of Shehab, Her Majesty's Government conceive, from what they have heard of the character of the Emir Emin, that the selection of that person for the important office of Governor of the Lebanon would be a judicious act on the part of the Porte.

I acquainted your Excellency in my despatch of the 25th of November, that Her Majesty's Government strongly deprecated the reinstatement of the ex-Emir Beshir Shehab: and in my despatch of the 27th of that month, I apprized you that Her Majesty's Government would not wish to offer any objection to the nomination of his son, the Emir Emin, if the Porte should think it necessary to remove the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim. Since the date of those despatches, accounts have been received of the Lebanon having been convulsed with civil war; and there is no one, as far as Her Majesty's Government is informed, so well calculated to remedy the mischiefs which have resulted from that calamity as the Emir Emin, who would appear in Syria with all the influence which his family connexion and wealth would enable him to exercise, and with all the advantages which the reputation he is said to enjoy for a conciliatory spirit and talents for administration, would confer upon him.

But although Her Majesty's Government think the Porte would do wisely to appoint Emir Emin, they would not wish your Excellency to take a prominent part in recommending his nomination. Your Excellency is authorized strongly to urge upon the Porte the expediency and justice of conferring the Government of the Lebanon upon a Christian ruler of the family of Shehab; but, with regard to the individual to be selected, they conceive that it would be better for the Porte itself, and more conducive to the tranquillity of the Lebanon, that the Governor, whoever he may be, should owe his nomination to the spontaneous act of the Sultan. Therefore, all that Her Majesty's Government wish that your Excellency should do in that respect would be, to offer an opinion that if the Porte

should appoint the Emir Emin, it would be taking a course which, so far as your Government could judge, would hold out the greatest promise of advantage to all parties concerned.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

## No. 42.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 21.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, February 23, 1842.*

NO complaints of the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Rose having been addressed to me, either officially or confidentially, by any one of the Turkish Ministers, and not having been aware that such complaints had been addressed to the Embassy before my arrival here, I made inquiry, after reading your Lordship's instruction of January 22, both of Mr. Bankhead and of M. Pisani, as to the nature and occasion of any representations bearing that character, which might have been made to them by the Porte, either in the time of Rifaat Pasha, or during the administration of Sarim Pasha.

The result of my inquiry is, that Colonel Rose's name, although it was specifically mentioned, was only mentioned in company with those of the other British officers in Syria, at a time when the Porte gave some intimation of their conduct being deemed rather more inquisitive and exacting than was found to be convenient, after the cessation of hostilities in Syria; and that when his exequatur was applied for, so far was he from being made an object of censure or complaint by the Turkish Government, much good-will and civility were shown by Rifaat Pasha in acceding to the application for that instrument.

Under these circumstances, I have thought it advisable to avail myself of the latitude opened towards the close of your Lordship's despatch, and to abstain from making any direct communication upon this delicate subject to the Reis Effendi. I have been the more inclined to take this course from having a fair opportunity of doing justice to Colonel Rose, and, in substance, attaining your Lordship's object, incidentally, and without the hazard of raising a question, which, if heretofore raised at all, has latterly at least subsided of itself. I allude to a passage in the instruction which I had occasion to address yesterday to M. Pisani on the subject of Syria. Your Lordship will find a copy of it inclosed with another of my despatches; and in what I have there said of Colonel Rose, I trust that you will perceive the expression, though reduced to a smaller compass, of the principal ideas which your Lordship intended eventually to convey to the Reis Effendi respecting that meritorious officer and zealous public servant.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

## No. 43.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 21.)*

Extract.)

*Constantinople, February 26, 1842.*

AT midnight, on the 19th instant, Her Majesty's steam-ship "Phoenix" arrived here unexpectedly, from Beyrout, with several despatches addressed to me by Colonel Rose, who had returned from Jerusalem a short time before. His object in despatching the "Phoenix" was to inform me of an attempt which had been made under the influence of Omar Pasha, the Turkish Governor of Mount Lebanon, to get up petitions by means of fraud and menace, with a view to the confirmation of the new order of things.



The "Phoenix" was also the bearer of despatches to the Internuncio from the Austrian Consul at Beyrout. His Excellency communicated them to me, and I found that they corroborated the principal points of Colonel Rose's intelligence respecting the fraudulent petitions and rigorous treatment of the Christians.

Conceiving that I could not with propriety omit to bring the subject of Colonel Rose's complaints under the notice of the Porte, I availed myself of the opportunity to hazard a fresh experiment in support of the demand already made for a reconsideration of the late arrangements in Syria.

I did not venture upon this step without the concurrence of the Internuncio, who appeared to participate entirely and without reserve in my view of the subject.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of my instruction to M. Pisani.

With respect to the French and Russian Representatives, we agreed that it would be more advisable not to invite them to partake of our proceeding. The "Phoenix" had come away without any despatches for them. I apprized them, however, in general terms, of the motives which had led Colonel Rose to despatch the "Phoenix" to Constantinople, and I have since imparted to them, confidentially, the contents of my instruction to M. Pisani.

Copies of Mr. Wood's despatches to your Lordship arrived in time to afford me some additional materials of intelligence respecting the dangerous state of affairs in Syria, and I have placed extracts of them also under the consideration of the Reis Effendi.

A week has now elapsed, and the only answer I have received from his Excellency is, that the whole of my communication to him will be deliberately examined by his colleagues before he can be authorized to give me an answer, and that he is convinced, in the mean time, by intelligence received at the Porte from Mustapha Pasha, that the accounts transmitted to me are altogether void of truth.

Whatever may come of these endeavours to rescue the Porte from a false step, I trust your Lordship will be of opinion that I have not unnecessarily committed Her Majesty's Government, or exceeded the limits marked out in my instructions.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

*Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.*

(Extract.)

*Pera, February 21, 1842.*

I HAVE to direct you to wait upon the Reis Effendi at an early hour to-morrow morning, and to make to his Excellency the following communication.

The Reis Effendi is aware of the arrival of a British steam-vessel express from Beyrout with intelligence of a very unsatisfactory nature. His Excellency needs not to be reminded either of the services rendered to the Sublime Porte in Syria by the united arms of England and Austria, or of the opinions lately conveyed to his Highness the Grand Vizier as well as to his Excellency, respecting the recent change of Government in Mount Lebanon, by the several Representatives of Russia, France, and Prussia, in addition to those of the above-mentioned Powers.

The British Ambassador has now to state, in virtue of the despatches received from Syria, that the conduct of Omar Pasha is such as to expose the Sultan's authority and the peace of the country to fresh and imminent danger. Without securing the permanent attachment of the Druses, it is calculated to oppress and degrade the Christian population. The Ambassador would fail in his duty if he were to allow these dangers to gather to a head in silence. As the Representative of a Power most friendly to the Porte he is bound to call the attention of the Turkish Ministry, and if need be, of the Sultan himself, to the effects of a conduct so utterly at

variance with justice and sound policy. The discharge of this duty is the more indispensable, as the measures adopted by Omar Pasha have a direct tendency to alienate the Christian Powers.

If the Porte be really anxious to repair the late calamities, to perpetuate the tranquillity of Mount Lebanon, and to establish her sovereignty on lasting foundations, let those invested with her authority show some regard for long established privileges, confirmed by promise, let them deal equal justice to all parties, and respect the claims of humanity while they enforce obedience to the law. The conduct of Omar Pasha is the very reverse of this. By main violence he compels the Christians, who have given many proofs of their loyalty, to return, without protection or means of subsistence, to the ruins of their former houses; he corrupts, without gaining, the Druses, by leaving them in possession of their plunder; he obtains signatures by force and fraud to petitions at once deceptive and insulting; nor is he deterred by any sentiments of gratitude or of duty from rendering one of these petitions the vehicle of an offensive calumny against the subjects and Government of Great Britain.

In support of these allegations the accompanying extracts of despatches received from Beyrout are submitted to the candid and serious consideration of the Reis Effendi. They are the testimonies of the British Consul-General in Syria; of one, who, alike in battle and in council, has deserved the good opinion, the gratitude of the Porte; who enjoys the full confidence of his own Government; and who leaves no effort unmade to serve the interests of this empire in concert with the Turkish authority, and to strengthen the Sultan's hold upon the allegiance and affections of the mountain tribes in Syria.

The Ambassador, no less than Colonel Rose himself, is ready to pay the utmost deference to the sovereign authority of the Sultan. He advances no pretension inconsistent with that principle. But he must be allowed, in common with the Representatives of other Powers in friendship with the Porte, to raise a warning voice against measures which are evidently undermining the best interests of the Porte. He cannot renounce his just claims to interpose amicably on behalf of those to whom the word of his Government has been pledged, and who fought so nobly for the recovery of their Sovereign's rights.

The Ambassador trusts that these representations, wrung from him by a painful sense of duty, will not be made in vain, and that his Government will have the consolation of knowing that the Porte is seriously resolved to remedy the evils now pointed out, and to remove without delay so just a cause of complaint, and of deep dissatisfaction.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

*Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead.*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, February 6, 1842.*

NO people certainly had ever stronger reasons than most of the Druses have, for wishing to be well with their rulers. For, protected by them, they preserve their persons and their plunder; but the part which they have to play has already become irksome to them. It has been intimated to the Druses, that they must pull down their helwee, or sacred houses, and burn their books, both of which the Druses declined to do.

About ten days ago, the son of Sheik Hamoud Abuneked, joint Druse Governor of Deir-el-Kammar, came here and requested Selim Pasha to send back immediately all the Christians who were here, and at Sidon, and who had fled from Deir-el-Kammar; to induce Selim Pasha to do so, he presented him with three fine horses. The Seraskier gave a peremptory order to the Christians to return to Deir-el-Kammar, or, in other words, to certain destruction or pillage.

The Druses are already beginning to show symptoms of mistrust of the Turks; Omar Pasha resides in the palace of the ex-Emir Beshir, at Ibtdeen, which, as the crow flies, is about half or three-quarters of a mile from, and commands Deir-el-Kammar; the greater part of the Turkish force is with Omar Pasha, the remainder in Deir-el-Kammar; the cannon are in position at Ibtdeen.

Five Christian women in Deir-el-Kammar, nearly starved and in despair, have embraced Mahometanism; they were all immediately married according to Mussulman custom, one of them to a black slave.

The acts and feeling of the Turks render daily the position of the Christians, in this country, more degraded.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 43.

*Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead.*

(Extract.)

*Beyrout, February 12, 1842.*

THE most convincing proof of the collusion and good understanding betwixt the Turkish authorities has been furnished by the appointment of the Emir Emin Raslan, a Druse, to the governorship of the Plain of Beyrout and of the surrounding country. He was the agent and channel of communication between the Druses and the Turkish authorities, and one of the fomenters and principal actors in the civil war. In the beginning of November last, he came into Beyrout, having been sent for by Selim Pasha to deceive the Christians (this occurred at the height of the disturbances). Selim Pasha and the Defterdar gave him a severe reprimand in public for the part he had taken; the same evening he was with Selim Pasha, he was accompanied out of town by his cavasses, and took out of Beyrout with him four mules loaded with ammunition for the Druses.

Selim Pasha and the Turkish authorities have now created for him, the chief promoter of the civil war, an employment. They have made a new governorship for him, and given to him the command of the town, village, and property of the late Emir Beshir-el-Kassim; thus, whilst they, the Turkish authorities, send this unfortunate personage, deprived by them of his high office, as a prisoner to Constantinople, asserting, at the same time, that they have no cause of complaint against him, they decorate with a sabre, a cashmere shawl and a fur pelisse, the rebellious Chief who led on his followers against his Prince, and invest him moreover with an extensive government, which comprises the house and lands of that very Prince.

Emir Emin Raslan, availing himself of the authority and power which he derives from his office, has laid forcible hands on the lands and property of the wife of the unfortunate Emir Beshir, who was sent the other day to Constantinople.

The Princess, wife of the Emir Beshir, has sent me a petition, detailing the conduct of the Emir Emin Raslan: I gave it in person to Selim Pasha, and strongly supported its prayer; he said that he would send an order to Omar Pasha respecting it, but I have had too much experience of that description of order and of promise. Besides, the first act of the Government of Omar Pasha was the appointment of the Emir Emin Raslan, and he will naturally support him to the extent of his ability.

The determination with which the authorities still continue unduly to favour the Druses, is circumstantial evidence that the greater part of them have, as I stated, received large presents of money, part of the Christian plunder, from that people.

P.S. Half of the Church of St. Anne, near Nazareth, the oldest Christian establishment in Syria, has been destroyed by the Turks. According to tradition it was founded by the mother of the Virgin.

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The Druses near Solyma have taken down the bells of the Capuchin Convent, and possessed themselves forcibly of land belonging to the convent.

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## No. 44.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, March 24, 1842.*

WITH regard to the general question of the ill-treatment of the Syrian Christians by Omar Pasha and the other Turkish authorities, your Excellency will warn the Porte against the supposition that the Christian Powers will tolerate a system of persecution directed against that class of the Sultan's subjects. The Porte is under an obligation to the Powers who signed the Treaty of the 15th of July, 1840, to fulfil the promises which it authorized the Representatives of those Powers to make, not as the Porte has alleged, to the Emir Beshir Shehab alone, but to all classes who obeyed the call of their Sovereign, and assisted in reestablishing his authority; and the Porte cannot suppose that the Powers will be indifferent to the welfare of a people, whose fidelity and courage contributed so essentially to the successful termination of the contest in Syria.

Her Majesty's Government regret to see that, instead of evincing a disposition to respect its own engagements, and to enable its allies to fulfil those which, relying on the good faith of the Porte, they made on its behalf, the Porte seeks to evade the performance of its promises, by broadly alleging that the complaints of the Foreign Agents in Syria against the conduct of the Turkish authorities, are wholly destitute of foundation. The Porte will not succeed in persuading the Powers that such is the case, when the concurrent testimony of all persons who are not in the service of the Porte, and are, therefore, not interested witnesses, denounces the conduct of the Turkish authorities in Syria as unjust and oppressive towards the Christians, and calculated to perpetuate the dissensions and the calamities which have so severely afflicted the Lebanon districts.

With regard to the particular case mentioned in Colonel Rose's despatch to Mr. Bankhead, of the 12th of February, from which it appears that the lands and property of the wife of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim have been forcibly seized by a Druse Governor, on whom the Turkish authorities have conferred the administration of the Emir's property, your Excellency will state to the Turkish Government, that Her Majesty's Government confidently expect that the Porte will send immediate orders to Syria for the reinstatement of that lady in her possessions. The Grand Vizier, as reported in your despatch of the 16th of February, did not pretend that the Emir Beshir El-Kassim had committed any crime which would authorize the confiscation of his property. On the contrary, it appears that he is allowed to present to the commission about to be assembled at Beyrout, his claim to compensation for the destruction of his property during the civil war. It is the height of injustice, therefore, that the property which escaped from the fury of his enemies, should now be wrested from him and his family by the arbitrary interference of a Turkish Governor; and your Excellency will not disguise from the Porte, that this fresh act of violence and injustice committed against a person to whose loyalty the Sultan is so deeply indebted, is calculated to produce in this country a feeling of indignation, which it is certainly far from the interest of the Porte to allow to be entertained by the British nation or Government.

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## No. 45.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Constantinople, March 9, 1842.*

I WAS under the necessity of allowing the "Phoenix" to return to Beyrout without any decisive declaration of the Turkish Government on the Syrian question. Your Lordship will have the goodness to excuse me if I reserve my explanations for a few days. I propose to write more at length by an express, which, as far as I can foresee, will set out on the 15th. The present opportunity does not afford me sufficient time for the purpose.

The Porte has issued orders for sending four or five thousand Albanians into Syria. This reinforcement may be necessary for the maintenance of her authority in that country; but there is much reason to fear that it will prove a cruel scourge to the inhabitants of the mountain.

## No. 46.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Extract.)

*Foreign Office, April 6, 1842.*

HER Majesty's Government have seen with regret, in the concluding passage of your Excellency's despatch of the 9th of March, that the Porte has issued orders for sending into Syria a large Albanian force. The excesses of which the troops of that description were guilty at the close of the Syrian campaign, and which gave occasion for strong remonstrances being made by the British agents in Syria to the Turkish authorities there, and by Viscount Ponsonby directly to the Turkish Government, fully justify the apprehensions expressed by your Excellency, that the presence of the Albanian reinforcements in Syria will prove a severe calamity to the inhabitants of that country.

Her Majesty's Government of course do not assume to themselves the right of prescribing to the Porte what peculiar description of force it should employ in any part of the Turkish dominions, but they consider that your Excellency may, without impropriety, take an opportunity of reminding the Porte of the just complaints which the conduct of the Albanians in Syria gave rise to a short time ago, and of expressing, unofficially, the hope of Her Majesty's Government, that measures will be taken for maintaining such a degree of discipline among the forces now about to be sent, as may secure the people of Syria from a repetition of the outrages which Albanian troops are in the habit of committing in the countries where they are employed.

## No. 47.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 12.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, March 16, 1842.*

I HAVE still sufficient motives to abstain from entering at any length upon the affairs of Syria, which continue to be under discussion at the Porte, and respecting which no recent intelligence of interest has reached me from Beyrout or Damascus. It is the intention of the Porte to send down a person of confidence, in the character of Envoy or Commissary, as a kind of assessor to Mustapha Pasha, with the view of obtaining fresh information, and reconsidering the whole question subsequently at Constantinople.

On being informed of this intention, I requested that it might be

communicated to the Representatives of the Five Powers, and Sarim Effendi has promised to comply with this request. He has already, indeed, announced it verbally to the Internuncio and the French Minister, as well as to myself.

I have earnestly and repeatedly endeavoured to prevail upon him to accompany the intended communication, which is to be in writing, with some satisfactory assurance as to the employment of the Albanian troops directed, to the amount of 4,000 or 5,000 men, upon Syria; and also, as to the restoration of the ancient privileges of Mount Lebanon, on the occasion of a definitive settlement. The language of Sarim Effendi induces me to hope that these recommendations have not been urged in vain; but I cannot venture to rely with confidence upon the impression which it is calculated to convey.

The Porte has exhibited so much reluctance to pledge itself, in the slightest degree, to the restoration of the deposed family, and its anxiety to send fresh troops into Syria is so apparent, that unless the assurances which I have recommended, be given, it will be difficult for me to abandon the suspicion, that her only object in sending a confidential agent to Mustapha Pasha is to gain time, and, by acting upon the fears of the people, whether Christians or Druses, to establish that appearance of tranquillity which may justify the assertion that her measures have succeeded, and that there is no reason to insist upon a return to the old state of things.

With respect to the Albanians, I have spared no pains to obtain, if not an entire change of their destination, at least such a distribution of their numbers along the coast of Syria, and principally at Acre, as might relieve the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon from any immediate danger of being brought into contact with them.

I have reason to believe that the Internuncio has made very decided exertions for the same purpose, and the French Minister has also made similar representations to the Reis Effendi.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

#### No. 48.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 12.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, March 17, 1842.*

I AVAIL myself of an express despatched by the Internuncio to overtake the Vienna post which started this morning, in order to transmit to your Lordship the communication which the Porte had announced its intention of making to the Representatives of the Five Powers, respecting the affairs of Syria. I did not receive it till late in the evening.

On the subject of the Albanians, the Porte has thought proper to keep a profound silence as far as this paper is concerned; and with respect to the ancient privileges of Mount Lebanon, your Lordship will perceive that their eventual restoration is very faintly and imperfectly shadowed out. There is, nevertheless, enough to indicate the sense of a necessity, if not of an obligation, to keep them in view; and, with the twofold advantage now obtained, of a deliberate reconsideration of the whole subject, and of a friendly communication with the Allied Powers thereon, it remains with the Powers themselves so to press that sense of necessity home to the conviction of the Turkish Government, as eventually to produce a rational and satisfactory result.

Selim Bey is the son of Veli, formerly Pasha of the Morea, and son of Ali Pasha of Yanina. M. Pisani informs me that he was formerly Muhassil of Smyrna, and was lately sent down to Bosnia with a commission similar to that which is now intrusted to him.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.



Inclosure in No. 48.

*Sarim Effendi to Sir Stratford Canning.*

(Traduction.)

LES Ministres de la Sublime Porte ne font pas difficulté d'entendre les communications sincères faites de vive voix et par écrit, et uniquement en genre d'observation, par les Missions des Cinq Hautes Puissances amies et alliées de la Sublime Porte, relativement au Mont Liban.

La Sublime Porte ne cesse un instant de songer aux mesures permanentes et énergiques propres à assurer la tranquillité de la Syrie, et le repos de ses habitans.

Mais comme les notices que la Sublime Porte acquiert, soit directement, soit par l'intermédiaire des Missions, sur les affaires de la Syrie, ne s'accordent pas les unes avec les autres, il a été jugé à propos de se procurer là-dessus de nouveaux renseignemens, et son Excellence Veli Pacha-zadé Selim Bey, un des grands personnages de la Sublime Porte, a été chargé de cette mission spéciale.

Le Bey doit se rendre auprès de son Altesse le Séraskir Pacha avec des connaissances suffisantes et les instructions nécessaires, et retourner avec une connaissance parfaite de l'état des affaires. Alors la Sublime Porte fera connaître aux Missions des Cours amies et les renseignemens obtenus, et les mesures à prendre en conséquence ; et l'on adoptera un système arrêté.

Quant à Omar Pacha, on ne tient guère à sa personne ; ce qui a été fait était une mesure dictée par les circonstances, et adoptée par celui qui était chargé d'une mission.

Il est superflu de dire qu'après les renseignemens positifs qu'on aura pris, de la même manière que l'on ne perd pas de vue les faveurs accordées à toutes les classes de sujets dans les bases de l'administration qui seront établies conformément à l'indépendance de la Sublime Porte, on ne refusera pas non plus au Mont Liban des faveurs propres à le contenter ; ce qui sera un effet de la souveraineté et de sollicitude pour le bien-être des Rayas.

*Le 5 Safar, 1258 (17 Mars, 1842).*

[N.B. Having referred the original paper to Mr. Alison, he gives the following version of the two last paragraphs, as being a more exact translation of the Turkish.

“With regard to Omar Pasha, personally, the Sublime Porte attaches no importance to the question. His appointment was viewed by the Seraskier as a matter of expediency ; and His Highness the Sultan will, in like manner, graciously extend to the Lebanites the same favour and sentiments of duty, with regard to the form of administration to be hereafter established (consistently with the independence of the Sublime Porte), upon the intelligence received (by Selim Bey), as may prompt him to respect the Imperial concessions granted in favour of all classes of His Majesty's subjects.]

(Translation.)

THE Ministers of the Sublime Porte make no difficulty in listening to the sincere communications made verbally and in writing, and merely by the way of observation, by the Missions of the Five High Powers, friends and allies of the Sublime Porte, relative to Mount Lebanon.

The Sublime Porte does not for an instant cease to meditate on the permanent and energetic measures calculated to insure the tranquillity of Syria, and the repose of its inhabitants.

But as the advices which the Sublime Porte receives, whether directly or through the medium of the Missions, on the affairs of Syria, do not agree with each other, it has been deemed right to obtain

fresh information thereupon, and his Excellency Veli Pasha-zadé Selim Bey, one of the great persons of the Sublime Porte, has been charged with this special mission.

The Bey is to go to his Highness the Seraskier Pasha, with sufficient acquaintance with the matter and with the necessary instructions, and to return with a perfect knowledge of the state of affairs. Then the Sublime Porte will make known to the Missions of the friendly Courts both the information obtained, and the measures to be taken in consequence; and a fixed plan will be adopted.

As for Omar Pasha, no importance is attached to him personally: that which has been done was a measure dictated by the circumstances, and adopted by the person who had a commission to execute.

It is superfluous to say that, after positive information shall be obtained, in the same manner as the favours granted to all classes of subjects will not be lost sight of in the bases of the administration which shall be established consistently with the independence of the Sublime Porte, neither will favours calculated to satisfy it be refused to Mount Lebanon; which will be an effect of the sovereignty and of the solicitude for the well-being of the Rayahs.

*The 5th Safar, 1258, (March 17, 1842).*

No. 49.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 18.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, March 27, 1842.*

PRIOR to the receipt of your Lordship's instruction respecting the deposed Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, I had already replied in terms of sympathy and kindness to his applications for support. I had also directed M. Pisani, on several occasions, to express both to the Grand Vizier and to Sarim Effendi, the interest which I felt for the unfortunate Emir. I have since renewed my representations in his favour, on the part of Her Majesty's Government; and having received a visit from the Emir himself, I availed myself of the occasion to assure him that my good offices were entirely at his disposal for the recovery of his property, and the acquisition of any other object which he might have to solicit at the Porte, for his protection or comfort.

I was careful, at the same time, to hold out no hope that Her Majesty's Government would be inclined to procure his reinstatement in the administration of Mount Lebanon, and, indeed, it was evident that he entertained no wish of the kind; and I was not sorry to observe that he appeared himself to be aware of the inexpediency, on political grounds, of his returning to Deir-el-Kammar, in the present unsettled state of affairs.

The Porte has required of him to name an agent for the verification of his claims before the tribunal appointed, or rather to be appointed, by Mustapha Pasha.

He told me that the Porte had made him an offer of pecuniary assistance, though in some way that implied more responsibility than advantage, for he declined the offer, and informed me that, as he had the whole of his appointments due to him while Emir to claim, he thought it better, under his present circumstances, to take nothing on account.

The Reis Effendi consented that he should be allowed to leave Constantinople, if he preferred to reside at Brussa for instance, but he purposes to remain for the present at Constantinople.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 18.)*

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 29, 1842.

I FEAR there is but too much reason to apprehend that the Porte is mainly seeking to gain time, by the appointment of Selim Bey for the investigation of the affairs of Mount Lebanon. He is still here, and I have not heard that any day is fixed for his departure.

In the mean time, our latest accounts from Syria are as unsatisfactory as the preceding ones. Your Lordship will, no doubt, have received direct intelligence from that quarter, of the same dates as mine, before this despatch can reach England. I inclose, nevertheless, herewith, an abstract of the principal incidents communicated by Colonel Rose. I have sent it in to the Reis Effendi, and I have also made my colleagues acquainted with its contents, suggesting to them the expediency of making a similar communication to the Porte.

The Reis Effendi, satisfied with the statements transmitted by Mustapha Pasha, makes light of ours, as if they were exaggerated. It may be so, but it is singular that my colleagues should receive accounts of the same purport as mine. Monsieur Basili particularly mentions the emigration of nearly all of the Christian inhabitants from Deir-el-Kammar to Beyrout and Saïda.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Wood agree with Colonel Rose, and the other Consuls at Beyrout, in describing the revived fanaticism of the Turks, their mistrust and increasing hatred of everything Christian, and their secret preparations for defence against foreign aggression or internal commotion.

I quite despair of being able to effect any further change in the counsels of the Porte until the receipt of instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

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Inclosure in No. 50.

*Substance of Colonel Rose's Despatches from Syria.*

SINCE the arrival of Mustapha Pasha, disorder in this country is on the increase. A most violent outrage has been committed by the Druses upon the Christians at Deir-el-Kammar, in which many of the Christians were severely wounded by clubs, and 300 of them have been obliged to save themselves by flight. Omar Pasha, although having an ample force at his disposal, looked on with the greatest indifference, and Mustapha Pasha himself showed no sympathy for the Christians, but treated the affair lightly. The Druses despise the authority of Omar Pasha, in defiance of which they have usurped the lands of Emir-el-Kassim, and of numerous other Christians. The state of the Christians is most deplorable: 15,000 of them are houseless, and 20,000 have been compelled to desert their villages: 4,000 have already petitioned the Consuls for the merciful interposition, on their behalf, of the foreign Representatives at Constantinople. The Albanians and the irregular cavalry maltreat and plunder them. They have pillaged one of their churches, and the Christians dare not even perform their devotions in them.

Their petition for a Christian ruler, Mustapha Pasha has refused to forward to Constantinople. He excites the minds of the Turks against them by the most inflammatory language, and the greatest armed activity prevails among the Moslems, who are being organized for, it is said, the object of subduing the Christians entirely. In the mean time, several of their chief men have been confined by Omar Pasha as hostages, or for

purposes of intimidation; they are subjected to forced labour for the repairs of Acre; the Jesuit building has been stopped by Mustapha Pasha; and intelligence from Egypt would appear to sanction the belief that the Porte meditates the entire expulsion of the Shehab family from Syria. Everything indicates a return to ancient fanaticism. Christians are not admitted into the local shouras. Police measures for raising funds are enforced against them. Attempts have even been made to compel the European subjects to contribute to them; and it is asserted that secret orders have been received from the Porte for withholding justice from foreigners, so as to induce them to abandon the country, and leave their fellow-Christians to their misery and degradation.

## No. 51.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 23, 1842.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 29th of March, inclosing an abstract of the reports which you have received from Colonel Rose, and stating that the accounts which the Ministers of the other Powers receive from their agents in Syria, agree with those which Colonel Rose has transmitted to your Excellency of the unsatisfactory state of affairs in that province.

As my despatches of the 16th and 24th of March, which your Excellency will have received by this time, contain full instructions for your conduct and language with regard to the affairs of Syria, I have only to refer you to those despatches, and to express my hope that the language which you are therein authorized to hold, may produce a salutary effect on the councils of the Porte.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

## No. 52.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 27.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, April 7, 1842.*

I HAVE this moment received information upon which I can rely, that Nejib Pasha of Damascus is deposed, and most sincerely do I hope, though I cannot yet take upon myself to give the assurance, that it may prove the prelude to a wiser policy in the affairs of Syria, and particularly to a more satisfactory state of affairs at Damascus itself.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

P. S. Nejib Pasha goes to Bagdad in place of Ali Riza Pasha, who takes the Pashalic of Damascus. The Reis Effendi affirms that there is no other change whatever in the matter.

## No. 53.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 6.)*

(Extract.)

*Constantinople, April 13, 1842.*

ACCORDING to the latest accounts from Syria, the affairs of that country remain nearly in the same state as before. The Porte continues to profess its satisfaction at the statements transmitted by Mustapha

Pasha; and not having myself received any intelligence by the last steamer from Beyrout. I can only reply, that the information received by my colleagues is not in harmony with the impressions apparently derived from his despatches.

Selim Bey is still here, and it is still the intention of the Porte to send him to Syria for the purpose already stated to your Lordship.

## No. 54.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 13.)*

(Extract.)

*Constantinople, April 20, 1842.*

ON the 17th instant, the Turkish commissioner, Selim Bey, at length embarked in a Government steamer and proceeded to the coast of Syria. The Reis Effendi says that he expects him to return in less than a month.

On the 14th I waited upon that Minister, in consequence of his invitation, and I availed myself of the opportunity, to read to his Excellency those parts of your Lordship's despatches which advert to the late change of Government in Syria, to the recall of Omar Pasha, and to the restitution of the ex-Emir Beshir El-Kassim's property.

I cannot affirm that, upon any one of these questions, I have met with decisive success. Upon the subject of the Shehab family, I am referred to the memorandum presented by the Porte some weeks ago to the Representatives of the Five Powers. The Government of Mount Lebanon may be restored to a member of that family, but it is a question of time and circumstances which cannot be decided till after the return of Selim Bey.

The removal of Omar Pasha is in like manner reserved for eventual consideration. The Porte attaches no importance to his continuance in office, but the Seraskier, who appointed him, is to decide upon his fate, or the question of his dismissal may be part of the final determination.

With respect to the lands of which the ex-Emir Beshir El-Kassim's wife has been forcibly deprived, I am assured by the Reis Effendi, that orders have been sent to include them in the legal inquiry respecting the Emir's own property, with a view to their ultimate restitution.

The distribution of the Albanian forces destined for Syria has again been the subject of some discussion between Sarim Effendi and myself. I understood him at one time to promise that they should be confined strictly to the fortresses on the coast, but he has since declared that, although they are to be quartered there in the first instance, they are to be placed at the Seraskier's disposal, and that he will employ them according to the exigencies of the service. Their arrival in Syria is expected with dread, but fortunately the difficulty of enlisting them, of finding transports, and of keeping them together, is so great, as to make it probable that few of the intended number will ever reach the coast of Syria. A detachment of them was driven a few days ago by stress of weather into Tenedos, and, the garrison being weak, the Governor of that island was compelled to tolerate their irregularities, and to compromise his authority for the sake of avoiding their violence.

## No. 55.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 18.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, April 27, 1842.*

ALTHOUGH, as your Lordship is aware, I have frequently urged the Porte either to abstain altogether from sending Albanian troops into Syria, or at least not to employ them in Mount Lebanon, I sent Mr. Alison this morning to communicate your Lordship's instruction of April 6, which

L

reached me yesterday, to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. Nearly the whole of the despatch was read to Sarim Effendi; but his Excellency was so delighted with the news of the seizure of the Druse Sheiks by Omar Pasha, without the assistance of any Albanians, that he was more inclined to boast of that feat, than to give any assurances of the nature desired by me, in addition to those which, on former occasions, I have wrung from him and reported in my correspondence with your Lordship.

According to accounts from Prevesa and Salonica, I do not think that more than two thousand Albanians are already embarked, or indeed collected, for the service of Syria; and it is to be hoped, that the opinion and advice of Her Majesty's Government, so frequently urged, and founded on views of the Porte's own interests, will not remain entirely without effect.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 56.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)*

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 18, 1842.

THE latest advices from Syria, combined with the language of the Turkish Ministers, are not favourable to the hope of an early or satisfactory settlement of the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

No fresh disturbances had taken place in the country, but, on the other hand, no real progress had been made towards the restitution of the plundered property, or the restoration of the deposed family.

Selim Bey is described as being in dependence upon the Seraskier, and the latter as devoting his utmost efforts, not without success, to the corruption or intimidation of the Christian Chiefs.

The principal result of his labour is a petition, numerously signed, in favour of Omar Pasha; and since the receipt of this petition here, and of the despatches which, no doubt, accompanied it, the Porte has given indications of an intention to persevere in the Grand Vizier's policy respecting Syria.

It appears that some of the Christian Emirs have been induced to promise that they will even come up to Constantinople, if called upon to do so, and give evidence of the sincerity with which they have signed the above-mentioned petition. Colonel Rose informs me that promises and bribes have been freely employed to produce this demonstration in favour of the Porte.

On the other hand, the people of the mountain—thus partly abandoned by their leaders—have come forward to make a counter-declaration, which has also been transmitted to the capital, and of this paper I have now the honour to inclose a copy for your Lordship's information.

In reference to these circumstances, I had some conversation with my colleagues yesterday, and I was anxious to ascertain their sentiments with regard to the expediency of inviting the Porte either to hasten the return of Selim Bey, or to afford such further explanation as might lead to an early settlement of the Syrian affair. An understanding upon this subject would seem to be the more desirable, as the Internuncio is going, in a few days, on account of his health, to the baths of Brussa, and his absence may extend to a period of six weeks.

This morning, however, the Reis Effendi has himself thrown some light upon the question. He informed Mr. Alison of his intention to invite myself and the other Representatives, to a meeting at his house on the 20th instant, by which time an officer sent up to Constantinople by the Seraskier will be out of quarantine, for the purpose of conferring upon the affairs of Syria, and communicating thereupon with Selim Bey, previous to the return of the latter from Beyrout, which, he said, was to take place as soon as the Porte's instructions should reach him.

The proposed conference will, no doubt, enable me to judge more



clearly than I can pretend to do at present, of the real intentions entertained by the Porte; and the departure of the monthly messenger will afford me an early and convenient opportunity of reporting the result to your Lordship.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 56.

*Translation of a Petition in Arabic, addressed by the Christian inhabitants of the Lebanon to His Highness the Sultan.*

WE, Christians of the Lebanon, subjects of your Highness, prostrated at the feet of your throne, have the honour to represent, that our submission and obedience to your Imperial orders are well known to your Imperial Court:—That our fidelity to your Highness cannot be called in question, for we fought with those who revolted against your legitimate crown, and have shed our blood to defend your rights, as we are ready to do evermore, and till our last breath. We have respected your supreme authority, and tolerated, till now, the Druses, our enemies; and, instead of having recourse to force, for revenging the plunders, conflagrations, and great damages occasioned by that body, we have had recourse to the equity and justice of your Highness.

Your Highness, according to your promises, has ordered the different Pashas to give us help on this occasion, and to restore us to tranquillity. We infinitely thank your sovereign clemency, and we venture, through our Deputy, to make known to your Highness the pitiful state to which we are at present reduced. Scattered far from our habitations, we have not the least security nor tranquillity; and all that has been seized and plundered by the Druses has not, as yet, been restored to us. Mustapha Pasha and Omar Pasha, not only do not provide for the urgency of our situation, but rather abuse the power that has been conferred on them.

As soon as Omar Pasha was appointed Governor of the Lebanon, far from communicating to the Porte our petition, by which we implored your Highness that one of our Princes Shehabis should be appointed to the government of the Lebanon, he constrained our Chiefs, by terror, menaces, and force, to sign another petition, which he caused to be written according to his wishes, and in their name, in which it was declared that the election made in his person was of the general acceptance and satisfaction.

Conscious, most glorious Sultan, of your benignity and humanity, the Princes and Chiefs of the Lebanon have represented by a petition, contrary to that transmitted by Omar Pasha to the Sublime Porte, that the first was written against their will, and that the universal wish was, that the Lebanon should be governed by a Shehabian Prince.

Mustapha Pasha, on his part, after his return from Jerusalem to Beyrout, assembled some of the Chiefs of the Lebanon; and, though he ordered Omar Pasha to arrest and send to Beyrout five of the Drusian Chiefs, which Omar Pasha did, in order to deceive the hopes of the population of the Lebanon, and to prevent that as little credit as possible might be given to their last petition, he wrote one according to his own views in the name of our Chiefs and the Druses, in the following terms:—That both of them, submissive and obedient to the Sublime Porte, requested the exclusion from the Government of the Lebanon of the family of the Shehabis, and that, satisfied with the government of Omar Pasha, they desired that the same should be confirmed in this post; that anything alleged against this declaration to the Representatives of the Allied Powers, or to others, is false; and that the petition was signed, not by force, but voluntarily.

Thus are we oppressed; our Chiefs were obliged by force and violence to sign petitions in favour of such Pashas, and against their will; and

these deliberations are brought to the notice of your Highness, instead of the real and voluntary ones.

In this state of things, we servants and subjects of your Highness, of one accord, and with unanimous consent, men and women old and young, high and low, by the means of our Deputy, supplicate, O Emperor, that you should be pleased to turn your merciful eyes upon us, and to deliver us from this oppression. Restore us to peace and tranquillity; do not abandon us in the utmost of our wants and calamity; be so gracious as to elect to the principality of the Lebanon the Emir Emin Shehab, who is now in your capital. We will be quiet and happy under this Governor. He is faithful to your Highness, and endowed with prudence and wisdom in governing; his character is free from stain. He is impartial, known to all, and generous with the poor. He has acquired the love and good-will of everybody; all the population incline to him. Chosen by his father to administrate justice in the Lebanon, he has been, on account of his good qualities, praised by every one. No one ever said the least thing against his proceeding. He is, above all, capable to satisfy the Sublime Porte and the common wishes. If your Highness do not turn your eyes on us, and is not touched by our prayers, we shall be entirely ruined. Be moved for the sake of so many persons, and by the devotion and submissive conduct of the Lebanites. Raise, magnanimous Sovereign, that voice of mercy and clemency, in order that we should be happy under your empire. We shall pray God for your preservation, and for the prosperity of your State.

(Signed in the original, by forty persons of the Deputies from the population of all the provinces of the Lebanon.)

16 Rebi-ul-evvel, 1258 (April 27, 1842).

#### No. 57.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 12.)*

(Extract.)

Constantinople, May 24, 1842.

THE conference, to which Sarim Effendi announced his intention of inviting the Representatives of the Five Powers with respect to the affairs of Syria, has not yet taken place. His Excellency informed Mr. Alison yesterday that he intended to propose it for the 27th instant. His intention, I believe, is to communicate to us the petitions and reports sent up from Syria by Mustapha Pasha, and to ascertain the impression which they make upon our minds. Another reference to Syria, and, consequently, a fresh period of delay, is to precede the return of Selim Bey, and a definitive settlement of the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

Deeply as I regret this continued procrastination, it is hardly possible to resist it effectually, without incurring the charge of pressing disrespectfully upon the Porte.

#### No. 58.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 24.)*

(Extract.)

Constantinople, June 9, 1842.

THE want of a suitable conveyance, the incomplete nature of my communications with the Porte, and the pressure of daily business, have occasioned a certain degree of interruption in my correspondence with your Lordship.

Nearly a fortnight has now elapsed since the conference took place, which I had previously announced to your Lordship. It was held at Sarim Effendi's house on the Bosphorus, in pursuance of his Excellency's

invitation. The Capudan Pasha and the President of the Council were present in company with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Ministers of the Five Powers were attended by their respective Dragomans, and I lament to add, that a severe attack of fever deprived me of the valuable services of Mr. Alison.

For an account of what passed at the conference, I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the accompanying report, which was drawn up from memory by the interpreters, and revised, with a view to more complete correctness, by my colleagues and myself. It will be found to contain the principal statements and arguments produced on each side, and the result was such as would naturally follow from a conflict between adverse impressions and irreconcilable testimony. The question at issue remains where it was: the Shehab family is as remote as ever from the Government of Mount Lebanon: and the only assurance given by the Turkish Ministers was, that no conclusive decision should be taken before the return of Selim Bey, or without a fresh reference to the Representatives of the Five Powers.

Copies of the papers presented to us by Sarim Effendi in the opening of the conference are inclosed herewith: and I further submit to your Lordship the report derived from Colonel Rose, which I read out for the information of the Turkish Ministers, in the course of the discussion that ensued.

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Inclosure I in No. 58.

*Substance of a Conference held at the house of the Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
May 27, 1842.*

A UNE heure et demie. Arif Pacha, Président du Conseil de Justice et Tahir Pacha, Grand Amiral, se trouvaient réunis chez le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et, de concert avec lui, ils ont pris part à la conférence, à laquelle assistaient aussi l'Ametchi Effendi et le premier Interprète du Divan. Etaient présents d'autre part, son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, le Ministre de France, le Chargé d'Affaires de Russie, le Chargé d'Affaires de Prusse, et le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche.

Sarim Effendi a exposé la question en disant, que des troubles étant survenus dans les montagnes du Liban, la Porte avait jugé à propos d'y envoyer, il y a environ six mois, le Seraskir Moustapha Pacha, pour s'enquérir de l'état des choses, et prendre les mesures nécessaires en conséquence; que le Seraskir avait alors démissionné de ses fonctions et envoyé à Constantinople l'Emir Béchir-el-Kassim, et investi Omar Pacha du Gouvernement de la Montagne: que les Représentans des Cinq Puissances s'étaient prononcés contre l'opportunité de cette mesure, et, en demandant qu'elle fut considérée seulement comme provisoire, avaient insisté sur le maintien des anciennes institutions, et conseillé à la Porte la réintégration de la famille de Chéhab; que la Porte, par suite de ces démarches, avait annoncé à ces Représentans, qu'elle enverrait un commissaire *ad hoc* en Syrie, chargé de prendre les informations nécessaires sur l'état des choses, et qu'après le retour de ce commissaire, elle se prononcerait sur le système à établir: que Sélim Bey s'était acquitté de cette tâche, et qu'il avait adressé à la Porte un rapport sur le résultat de sa mission, accompagné de quatre requêtes signées par des Cheiks Maronites et d'autres notables du Mont Liban. Sarim Effendi a fait alors donner lecture de la traduction de ces pièces, et a ajouté, qu'il avait réuni MM. les Représentans pour prendre leur avis et pour conférer avec eux sur leur contenu. Traduction de ces pièces a été remise à MM. les Représentans.

Après quelques discussions sur l'objet précis de la communication qui venait d'avoir lieu, et après avoir reçu de Sarim Effendi l'aveu que, tout en désirant connaître l'effet qu'elle produirait sur l'esprit des Représentans, la Porte ne pensait pas à prendre une détermination immédiate sans leur participation, l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre a pris la parole pour dire que les rapports qui lui avaient été adressés de la Syrie n'étaient nullement en harmonie avec ceux de l'autorité Ottomane. Il a ajouté

que ces rapports caractérisaient les pétitions transmises par Moustapha Pacha comme ayant été obtenues par des menaces et des promesses, et qu'il avait lieu de croire que des informations analogues avaient été adressées à ses Collègues par les Consuls de leurs nations. Les quatre autres Représentans se sont empressés de confirmer l'assertion de l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

D'après le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, les pièces lues à la conférence établissent complètement la vérité des rapports du Seraskir Pacha, leur conformité avec les faits, et la convenance qu'il y a, dans l'intérêt de la tranquillité et du bonheur des populations (objet commun des efforts de la Porte et des Puissances), à maintenir le nouveau mode d'administration du Liban sous un Pacha Turc. Selon lui, les populations sont unanimes pour repousser la famille Chéhab, et son retour serait le signal de désordre. La Porte, dit-il, a été obligée d'interposer son autorité pour empêcher grand nombre d'habitans du Liban de venir à Constantinople intenter un procès au vieux Emir Béchir pour des violences et des exactions dont ils ont été les victimes. Il fait remarquer que les pétitions lues aux Représentans sont signées par des personnes qui se font connaître, tandis que les rapports des Consuls sont fondés uniquement sur le témoignage de malveillance et de gens sans aveu, qui vont d'un Consul chez l'autre, raconter les mêmes fables.

L'unanimité des Consuls a été de nouveau objectée au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères par les Représentans des Cinq Puissances. On a également fait observer aux Ministres Turcs, que les requêtes par eux communiquées, ne portaient la signature que d'un petit nombre de personnes; qu'il était notoire de plus, que pour recueillir ces signatures, on avait employé les promesses ou l'intimidation; qu'il existait des pétitions demandant le retour de la famille Chéhab signées par les mêmes personnes dont les cachets figuraient au bas des présentes requêtes. Il a été donné lecture d'une pièce où sont consignés les détails les plus circonstanciés sur les manœuvres employées pour contraindre ou engager quelques Chefs du Liban à donner leurs signatures. On a fait remarquer au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, qu'il était difficile de s'expliquer comment, sans de pareilles manœuvres, les habitans du Liban auraient pu si subitement changer d'opinion, et oublier des usages anciens et des privilèges auxquels ils tenaient tant, et dont depuis peu, et à diverses reprises, ils ont si unanimement et si énergiquement demandé la conservation.

Les Ministres Turcs ont expliqué ce changement par la diminution des impôts, 4,000 bourses au lieu de 20,000; à quoi il a été répondu que cette diminution de charges n'était pas une chose nouvelle, se rattachant à la nomination d'Omar Pacha, mais qu'elle remontait au règlement de la question Egyptienne du tems de l'administration de l'Emir El-Kassim; que d'ailleurs il n'était pas dit que si la famille Chéhab était rétablie, le tribut dût être augmenté, puisque l'augmentation ou la diminution de ce tribut dépendait uniquement de la Porte.

On a rappelé les promesses faites aux populations de la Montagne, de concert avec le Gouvernement Ottoman, lorsqu'on avait besoin de leurs services; et après qu'on en avait tiré parti, ces promesses ont été niées en ce sens que, selon le Ministre Ottoman, elles n'auraient été que des promesses générales de bienveillance et de protection, qu'il était prêt à renouveler, ou des promesses particulières et conditionnelles à l'égard du vieil Emir Béchir, dont celui-ci ne peut réclamer l'accomplissement, faute par lui d'avoir rempli les conditions demandées.

Les cinq Représentans ont été unanimes pour déclarer l'insuffisance des témoignages produits par la Sublime Porte. On a rappelé que les Consuls de France, d'Autriche, et de la Grande Bretagne, à Beyrout, n'ont pas hésité à demander à Mustapha Pacha de se réunir chez lui pour discuter contradictoirement les renseignemens transmis par eux aux Représentans des Puissances à Constantinople, et les rapports adressés par lui au Gouvernement Ottoman; que cette démarche des Consuls était une preuve de la confiance que l'on doit avoir dans leurs assertions.

On a fait observer de plus aux Ministres Turcs, que la paix et la tranquillité dont ils se prévalaient comme argument en faveur du nouveau mode d'administration, reposaient seulement sur des promesses

de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman dont l'effet ne serait que temporaire; que la principale cause de cette tranquillité était la confiance des populations dans l'heureux résultat des efforts des Puissances amies pour leur faire rendre un ordre de choses qui leur est cher, et dont le rétablissement seul peut fonder une tranquillité durable. On a ajouté, qu'en mettant de côté les mouvemens locaux de la déchéance de la famille Chéhab, il y avait dans cette perturbation violente apportée à un régime ancien quelque chose de dangereux, et un mauvais exemple pour les autres populations de l'Empire Ottoman; que les Puissances amies ont dernièrement encore manifesté dans un acte solennel, l'intérêt unanime qu'elles portent au principe de l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman, et qu'elles avaient à cœur que la Porte ne fit rien qui put entraîner des conséquences contraires à ce principe.

Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche a lu le résumé d'une dépêche de son Altesse le Prince de Metternich, en date du 17 Mai courant, qu'il venait de recevoir immédiatement avant la conférence, renfermant des considérations élevées pour montrer la nécessité du retour à l'ancien ordre de choses en Syrie.

Les Ministres Turcs, en répétant que selon eux il n'existait pas l'ombre d'un doute sur la disposition des populations: que demander le retour de la famille Chéhab, c'était demander l'impossible, parceque les populations n'en voulaient absolument pas; ont fait la question suivante: "Dans le cas où la vérité des rapports produits par nous serait reconnue par vous-mêmes, insisteriez-vous encore sur la réhabilitation des Chéhab?"

Il a été répondu qu'il faudrait d'abord que cette vérité fût réellement reconnue, et qu'il ne paraissait pas opportun de discuter dès à présent une question reposant sur une éventualité rendue si improbable par l'état actuel de leurs informations.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a proposé alors d'envoyer d'ici dans le Liban, des commissaires accompagnés de délégués des Ambassades avec des listes pour recueillir les suffrages, et constater la majorité.

Un moyen semblable, lui a-t-on répondu, ne pourrait être conforme aux vœux des Puissances amies, que s'il était combiné avec les égards dus à la dignité du Gouvernement Ottoman, ces Puissances désirant avant tout que dans l'arrangement de la présente question le Sultan agisse toujours spontanément, et figure dans tout l'éclat de son autorité souveraine.

Plusieurs considérations appuyées d'exemples tirés de l'histoire, ont été présentées, pour montrer la nécessité des ménagemens et de la prudence à l'égard des populations montagnardes, et pour rappeler les égards que les Sultans les plus puissans ont eu pour celles du Mont Liban.

On a prié les Ministres Ottomans de ne point s'exagérer l'importance et l'étendue des modifications conseillées par les Puissances dans la nouvelle forme du Gouvernement de la Montagne, le Prince de la famille Chéhab qui sera nommé, ne devant en tout cas, exercer le pouvoir, que comme délégué et serviteur de Sa Hautesse. Le Seraskir Pacha a été représenté par les Ministres des Cinq Puissances amies, comme juge et partie dans la cause, et Selim Bey comme n'ayant pas à Beyrout cette position d'indépendance et d'autorité que devait avoir un commissaire chargé de mettre d'accord ses assertions contradictoires, et comme n'ayant pas rempli les conditions nécessaires pour donner crédit complet à ses rapports.

Trois faits ont été cités à l'appui de cette opinion. 1. Selim Bey n'a point été admis à la réunion des Consuls chez Mustapha Pacha, quoique les Consuls l'eussent demandé.

2. Selim n'est point sorti de Beyrout et n'a point pénétré dans la Montagne.

3. Selim Bey a refusé de recevoir, sans le consentement préalable de Mustapha Pacha, les pétitions qui lui ont été présentées en faveur du retour de la famille Chéhab.

Il a été répondu par les Ministres Turcs, que Selim Bey n'était point allé dans la Montagne parceque les Maronites s'étaient rendus en masse auprès de lui, et que c'est parcequ'il n'a point encore accompli sa mission, qu'il n'est pas revenu par le dernier paquebot.

Il serait inutile de reproduire en détail le long échange d'objections et de réponses où s'est toujours manifesté, d'un côté, la croyance absolue aux rapports du Seraskir et de Selim Bey, et de l'autre, une défiance correspondante.

Pour arriver à un résultat les Représentans des Cinq Cours ont fait au Ministre des Affaires Étrangères la question suivante :—

“ Repousseriez-vous toujours la réhabilitation de la famille Chéhab, dans le cas où, de concert avec la Sublime Porte, on trouverait une combinaison qui préviendrait les dangers que la Sublime Porte redoute ? ”

Cette question, à laquelle le Ministre Turc a refusé de répondre tant qu'on n'aurait pas répondu à celle qu'il avait faite précédemment, a été suivie de la part de MM. les Représentans d'une série de considérations propres à montrer à la Sublime Porte que ses craintes, en admettant même qu'elles fussent fondées, ne pourraient s'appliquer qu'à des circonstances partielles et passagères, et que l'on pourrait satisfaire au vœu des Puissances sans négliger les moyens suggérés par ces mêmes circonstances.

Les Ministres Turcs ont persisté à soutenir que la seule réapparition des Chéhab deviendrait le signal d'un soulèvement, non seulement dans la montagne, mais aussi dans les autres territoires habités par les Druses ; et que la compression de ces désordres nécessiterait de grandes dépenses, l'envoi d'une force militaire considérable, et l'emploi des moyens de rigueur repoussés par l'humanité et par le vœu des Puissances.

En dehors des moyens coercitifs, n'y aurait-il pas, a-t-on demandé, quelques mesures administratives, dans le sens déjà indiqué, qui pourraient prévenir les dangers signalés par la Porte, et satisfaire tous les partis ?

Les Ministres Turcs ayant paru désirer quelques développemens, on leur a demandé si la Sublime Porte serait contraire à une combinaison par laquelle les Druses et les Maronites seraient placés sous deux chefs séparés pris dans chaque nation respective ?

Les Ministres Turcs ont répondu que cette mesure était d'une réalisation impossible, parceque les Druses et les Maronites habitent confondus dans les mêmes villages.

On leur a fait observer que ce mélange n'existait que dans deux ou trois localités, mais que la majeure partie des Druses et des Maronites habitaient des districts séparés.

Les Représentans des Cinq Puissances ont exposé aux Ministres Turcs, que lors même que le système nouvellement établi serait maintenu, il y aurait toujours, d'après les pièces mêmes produites, une partie de la population qui lui serait contraire ; que dans le cas de la réhabilitation de la famille Chéhab, s'il y avait opposition, la Sublime Porte, outre le parti favorable aux Chéhab, pourrait compter toujours sur l'appui moral de ses alliés, dans le cas contraire, elle en serait privée ; et il ne faut pas qu'elle oublie que, partout et toujours, des populations de mœurs et de religion différentes ont de la propension à tourner leurs regards vers les appuis du dehors : il est donc très important pour le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse d'avoir cet appui de son côté.

Les Ministres ayant parlé des dépenses que la Porte devrait faire pour maintenir un Prince de la famille Chéhab, des troupes qu'elle devait envoyer, du sang qui serait versé, on leur a répondu qu'on ne pouvait pas admettre la réalité des inconvéniens et des dangers qu'ils venaient de signaler, et qu'il ne s'agissait pas d'une guerre que la Porte aurait à soutenir contre les opposans, puisque d'après les adresses mêmes lues à la conférence, la réhabilitation des Chéhab ne serait suivie que de l'émigration du parti contraire, mais nullement d'une levée de boucliers. Les Ministres Turcs ont fait observer, que c'était uniquement par respect des convenances que les signatures des adresses n'avaient point articulé le mot de résistance armée, mais que la Sublime Porte savait positivement par d'autres sources, que ces signataires et leurs adhérens étaient prêts à prendre les armes à la première nouvelle.

L'heure avancée, et la stérilité des efforts faits de part et d'autre pour arriver à un résultat, ont déterminé MM. les Représentans à déclarer que leur conviction de la vérité et de l'exactitude des rapports de leurs Consuls,



n'était pas détruite par les assertions contraires des Ministres de la Porte et les pièces produites par eux, et que pour être fidèles au système de franchise suivi dans leurs rapports avec la Sublime Porte, ils devaient la prévenir qu'ils ne pouvaient se dispenser de faire connaître leurs impressions à leurs Cours.

Les Ministres Turcs ont déclaré que rien aussi de leur côté n'avait été changé à leurs convictions.

Sarim Effendi a prié alors MM. les Représentans de ne point écrire à leurs Cabinets sous l'influence des impressions produites par la conférence du jour, mais de la faire seulement après une mûre réflexion, de ne pas se borner à dire que la Porte persiste, mais de bien faire ressortir qu'elle prend en considération sa position, les temps, les lieux, et les circonstances.

Ensuite MM. les Représentans ont engagé la Porte, au nom de l'intérêt que leur Cours prennent au bien-être de l'Empire Ottoman, d'arranger l'affaire du Liban d'une manière satisfaisante, afin de faire cesser une divergence regrettable entre elle et les Grandes Puissances ses amies.

Les Ministres Turcs ayant répondu que la tranquillité la plus parfaite régnait en Syrie, et que, par conséquent, ils ne voyaient pas la nécessité urgente d'aviser à aucune mesure nouvelle, on leur a fait observer qu'il y avait urgence puisqu'il y avait complication de rapports de la Porte avec les Grandes Cours de l'Europe.

Les Ministres Turcs ont exprimé l'espoir que quant à ces rapports, la présente question n'y porterait aucune atteinte, à quoi MM. les Représentans ont répondu qu'ils se plaisaient à l'espérer.

Avant de séparer il a été convenu, qu'aucune décision ne serait prise en conséquence de cette conférence; qu'il n'en serait point prise sans communication préalable; et qu'il fallait attendre le retour de Selim Bey, et les informations ultérieures qui pourraient arriver à la Porte et à MM. les Représentans.

(Translation.)

AT half-past one, Arif Pasha, President of the Council of Justice, and Tahir Pasha, High Admiral, met at the house of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and together with him took part in the conference, at which, also, the Amedgi Effendi and the first interpreter of the Divan were present. On the other side were present, his Excellency the Ambassador of England, the Minister of France, the Chargé d'Affaires of Russia, the Chargé d'Affaires of Prussia, and the Chargé d'Affaires of Austria.

Sarim Effendi stated the question, saying, that troubles having arisen in the mountains of Lebanon, the Sublime Porte had judged it fitting about six months ago, to send there the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, to inform himself of the state of affairs, and to adopt the necessary measures in consequence; that the Seraskier had, thereupon, dismissed from office, and sent to Constantinople, the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, and invested Omar Pasha with the government of the Mountain; that the Representatives of the Five Powers had declared themselves against the fitness of this measure, and, requiring that it should only be considered as provisional, had insisted on the maintenance of the ancient institutions, and had recommended to the Porte the reinstatement of the Shehab family; that the Porte, in consequence of this step, had announced to these Representatives, that she would send a commissioner, for the express purpose to Syria, who should be directed to obtain the necessary information on the state of affairs, and that after the return of that commissioner, she would pronounce upon the system to be established; that Selim Bey had executed this duty, and had addressed to the Porte a statement of the result of his mission, accompanied with five petitions signed by Maronite Sheiks and other principal persons of Mount Lebanon. Sarim Effendi thereupon caused translations of these documents to be read, and added, that he had convened the Representatives in order to take their

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opinion, and to confer with them upon the contents thereof. Translations of these documents were given to the Representatives.

After some discussion as to the precise object of the communication which had taken place, and after having received from Sarim Effendi the avowal that, while she was desirous of knowing the effect which she would produce upon the minds of the Representatives, the Porte did not meditate taking an immediate determination without their participation, the Ambassador of England commenced by saying, that the reports which had been addressed to him from Syria were nowise in harmony with those of the Ottoman authority. He added, that those reports characterized the petitions sent by Mustapha Pasha, as having been obtained by threats and promises, and that he had reason to believe that corresponding information had been addressed to his colleagues by the Consuls of their nations. The four other Representatives eagerly confirmed the assertion of the Ambassador of England.

According to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the documents read to the Conference completely established the truth of the reports of the Seraskier Pasha, their conformity with the facts, and the propriety, with reference to the interest of the tranquillity and happiness of the people, (the common object of the efforts of the Porte and of the Powers), of maintaining the new mode of the administration of the Lebanon by a Turkish Pasha. According to him, the people are unanimous in rejecting the Shehab family, and its return would be the signal of disorder. The Porte, he says, has been obliged to interpose its authority to prevent a great number of the inhabitants of the Lebanon from coming to Constantinople, to bring an action against the old Emir Beshir for outrages and exactions of which they have been the victims. He remarks, that the petitions read to the Representatives are signed by known persons, whereas the reports of the Consuls are merely founded on the evidence of malevolence, and of worthless persons, who go from one Consul to another to tell the same stories.

The unanimity of the Consuls was again pointed out to the Minister for Foreign Affairs by the Representatives of the Five Powers. It was likewise remarked to the Turkish Ministers, that the petitions communicated by them bore the signatures of a small number of persons only; that it was moreover notorious that, in order to obtain these signatures, promises or intimidation had been employed; that there were petitions demanding the return of the Shehab family, signed by the same persons whose seals appeared at the bottom of the present petitions. A document was read containing the most circumstantial details as to the intrigues employed in order to compel or to induce some chiefs of the Lebanon to give their signatures. It was remarked to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that it was difficult to explain how, without such intrigues, the inhabitants of the Lebanon could have so suddenly changed their opinion, and have forgotten ancient usages and privileges to which they were so much attached, and of which, a short time since, and repeatedly, they have so unanimously and so energetically demanded the maintenance.

The Turkish Ministers explained this change by the diminution of the taxes, 4,000 purses instead of 20,000; to which it was answered that this diminution of burthens was not a new thing, connected with the appointment of Omar Pasha, but that it went back to the settlement of the Egyptian question in the time of the administration of the Emir-el-Kassim; that, moreover, it was not said, that if the Shehab family was re-established the tribute would be increased, since the increase or the diminution of that tribute depended solely on the Porte.

The promises made to the inhabitants of the Mountain, in concert with the Ottoman Government, when there was occasion for their services, were cited; and after advantage had been taken of those promises, they were denied, inasmuch as, according to the Ottoman Minister, they were only general promises of good-will and protection, which he was ready to renew, or special and conditional promises with regard to the old Emir Beshir, of which the latter cannot claim fulfilment, in consequence of his not having fulfilled the required conditions.

The five Representatives unanimously declared the evidence produced by the Porte to be insufficient. It was stated that the Consuls of France, Austria, and Great Britain at Beyrout, did not hesitate to propose to Mustapha Pasha to meet and discuss with him the information forwarded by them to the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, and the reports which he had addressed to the Ottoman Government; that this proceeding of the Consuls was a proof of the reliance which should be placed on their assertions.

It was, moreover, remarked to the Turkish Ministers, that the peace and tranquillity on which they relied as an argument in favour of the new mode of administration, rested only on promises on the part of the Ottoman Government, the effect of which would be merely temporary; that the principal cause of that tranquillity was the reliance of the people on the happy result of the efforts of the friendly Powers for restoring to them an order of things which is dear to them; and the restoration of which can alone lay the foundation of a lasting tranquillity. It was added, that putting aside the local circumstances of the downfall of the Shehab family, there was in this violent disturbance of an ancient system of Government something dangerous, and an evil example for the other people of the Ottoman Empire; that the friendly Powers have recently again shown in a solemn Act, the unanimous interest which they take in the principle of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and that they desired that the Porte should do nothing which might involve consequences opposed to that principle.

The *Chargé d'Affaires* of Austria read the substance of a despatch from His Highness Prince Metternich, dated the 17th of May, which he had received immediately before the Conference, containing observations, showing the necessity of returning to the ancient order of things in Syria.

The Turkish Ministers, repeating that in their opinion there was not a shadow of doubt as to the disposition of the people,—that to ask for the return of the Shehab family, was to require what was impossible, since the people were absolutely not desirous of it,—proposed the following question, “In case the truth of the reports produced by us, should be admitted by you, would you still insist on the reinstatement of the Shehabs?”

It was replied, that it was requisite, in the first instance, that this truth should be really admitted, and that it did not seem suitable to discuss, at present, a question resting on a contingency rendered so improbable by the actual state of their information.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs then proposed to send from hence to the Lebanon, commissioners, accompanied by delegates from the embassies, with lists, in order to collect the votes, and establish the majority.

Such a measure, it was replied, could only be consistent with the wishes of the friendly Powers, in so far as it was combined with the respect due to the dignity of the Ottoman Government, those Powers desiring, above all things, that, in the settlement of the present question, the Sultan should always act spontaneously, and appear in all the splendour of his sovereign authority.

Various considerations, supported by examples drawn from history, were adduced in order to show the necessity of forbearance and prudence with regard to inhabitants of mountains, and to call to mind the respect which the most powerful Sultans have had for those of Mount Lebanon.

The Ottoman Ministers were requested not to exaggerate to themselves the importance and extent of the modifications recommended by the Powers in the new form of government of the Mountain, as the Prince of the family of Shehab who shall be appointed will in any case only exercise power as a delegate and servant of His Highness. The Seraskier Pasha was represented by the Ministers of the Five Friendly Powers, as judge and party in the cause, and Selim Bey, as not having at Beyrout that position of independence and authority which a commissioner ought to have who was charged with reconciling his contradictory assertions, and as not having fulfilled the conditions requisite for giving complete credence to his reports.

Three circumstances were adduced in support of this opinion.

1. Selim Bey was not admitted to the meeting of the Consuls at Mustapha Pasha's, although the Consuls had required it.

2. Selim had not gone out of Beyrout, and had not entered the Mountain.

3. Selim refused to receive, without the previous consent of Mustapha Pasha, the petitions which were presented to him in favour of the return of the Shehab family.

The Turkish Ministers replied, that Selim Bey had not gone into the Mountain because the Maronites had come to him in a body : and that he had not returned by the last packet, because he had not yet fully executed his mission.

It would be useless to recapitulate in detail the long interchange of objections and replies, in which, on the one hand, absolute credence in the reports of the Seraskier and Selim Bey was continually manifested, and, on the other, corresponding distrust.

In order to arrive at a conclusion, the Representatives of the Five Courts proposed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the following question :—

“ Would you still reject the reinstatement of the Shehab family, in the event of a combination being discovered, in concert with the Sublime Porte, which would obviate the dangers apprehended by the Sublime Porte ? ”

This question, to which the Turkish Minister refused to reply so long as no answer should have been given to that which he had previously proposed, was followed on the part of the Representatives by a succession of considerations calculated to show the Sublime Porte that its apprehensions, even admitting that they were well founded, could only have reference to partial and transitory circumstances, and that it was possible to comply with the wish of the Powers without neglecting the means suggested by these very circumstances.

The Turkish Ministers persisted in maintaining that the mere reappearance of the Shehabs would be the signal for a rising, not only in the Mountain, but also in the other territories inhabited by the Druses : and that the suppression of these disorders would render necessary a large expenditure, the despatch of a considerable military force, and the employment of rigorous measures which were equally repugnant to humanity and to the wish of the Powers.

It was asked whether, independently of coercive measures, there might not be certain measures of administration in the sense already pointed out, which might obviate the dangers indicated by the Porte, and satisfy all parties ?

The Turkish Ministers having appeared desirous of some explanations, it was asked whether the Sublime Porte would be opposed to a combination by which the Druses and the Maronites should be placed under two separate chiefs selected respectively in each nation ?

The Turkish Ministers replied, that this measure was impracticable, because the Druses and the Maronites live mixed together in the same villages.

It was observed to them that this mixture only occurred in two or three districts, but that the greater portion of the Druses and of the Maronites inhabit separate districts.

The Representatives of the Five Powers explained to the Turkish Ministers that even if the system recently established should be maintained, there would still, according to the documents themselves which had been brought forward, be a part of the population which would be opposed to it ; that in the event of the reinstatement of the Shehab family, if opposition should be offered to it, the Sublime Porte, besides the party favourable to the Shehabs, might always reckon on the moral support of her allies, in the contrary case she would be deprived of it ; and she must not forget that, everywhere, and at all times, people of different nations and religion are inclined to look to external support ; it is therefore very important for the Government of His Highness to have that support on its side

The Ministers having mentioned the expense which the Porte would have to incur in order to uphold a Prince of the Shehab family, the troops which she must send, the blood which would be spilt, it was replied, that it was impossible to admit the reality of the inconvenience and danger which they had pointed out, and that it was not a question of a war which the Porte would have to sustain against opponents, since, according to the addresses themselves which had been read to the Conference, the reinstatement of the Shehabs would be merely followed by the emigration of the opposite party, but by no means by a hostile rising. The Turkish Ministers remarked that, it was only from a regard for decency that the signatures of the addresses had not pronounced the word of armed resistance, but that the Porte had positive knowledge from other sources, that the signing parties and their adherents were ready to take arms at the first intelligence.

The lateness of the hour, and the fruitlessness of the efforts made on either side to arrive at a conclusion, determined the Representatives to declare that their conviction of the truth and correctness of the reports of their Consuls, was not destroyed by the contrary assertions of the Ministers of the Porte and the documents produced by them; and that in order to adhere to the system of frankness followed in their relations with the Sublime Porte, it was their duty to inform her that they could not abstain from making known their impressions to their Courts.

The Turkish Ministers declared that on their side also, their convictions were unchanged.

Sarim Effendi then requested the Representatives not to write to their Cabinets under the influence of the impressions produced by the Conference of that day, but to do so only after full consideration; not to confine themselves to saying that the Porte persists, but to make it clearly apparent that she takes into account her position, the times, places, and circumstances.

The Representatives thereupon conjured the Porte, by the interest taken by their Courts in the well-being of the Ottoman Empire, to settle the affair of the Lebanon in a satisfactory manner, in order to put an end to a difference which was to be regretted between her and the Great Powers, her friends.

The Turkish Ministers having replied that the most perfect tranquillity prevailed in Syria, and that, consequently, they did not perceive the urgent necessity of having recourse to any new measure, it was pointed out to them that there was such urgency since the relations of the Porte with the Great Courts of Europe were complicated.

The Turkish Ministers expressed the hope that, as for those relations, the present question would not impair them; to which the Representatives replied, that they would fain hope so.

Before separating, it was agreed that no decision should be taken in consequence of this conference; that none should be taken without previous communication; and that it was necessary to await the return of Selim Bey, and the further intelligence which might reach the Porte and the Representatives.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

*Selim Bey to the Grand Vizier.*

(Traduction.)

JE prends la liberté d'annoncer à Votre Altesse, que le repos dont jouissent dans ce moment les habitans de la Montagne, est tel qu'il n'a jamais existé.

L'administration actuelle ne laisse, de l'aveu de tout le monde, rien à désirer, et les habitans de la Montagne n'en sont que très satisfaits. Messieurs les Consuls des Puissances Alliées résidant dans ce pays, sont les seuls qui considèrent les choses sous un autre point de vue.

Induits en erreur par des renseignemens aussi inexacts que perfides,

ces Messieurs continuent à prétendre dans les rapports qu'ils font parvenir à leurs Chefs de Missions, que tant qu'un Prince de la famille Chéhab n'aura été mis à la tête de la Montagne, on ne devra pas s'attendre à voir la tranquillité y régner complètement ; et que le retour au pouvoir du vieux Emir Béchir ne cesse d'être désiré par toute la population.

Le contenu de la requête présentée par les principaux Cheiks Maronites, et quelques uns des membres de la famille Chéhab, à son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, pour être transmise à la Sublime Porte, est de nature à prouver tout ce qu'il y a d'inexact dans les rapports de Messieurs les Consuls ; et Votre Altesse pourra en acquérir la conviction par les rapports de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha.

Les plus notables de ces Cheiks se sont rendus en personne auprès du Seraskir Pacha, auquel ils ont remis, en ma présence, la pétition dont il s'agit.

Ils ont saisi cette occasion pour lui exprimer qu'ils avaient beaucoup à se louer du Gouvernement actuel de la Montagne, et qu'ils étaient décidés, dans le cas où, malheureusement pour eux, quelqu'un de la famille Chéhab, ou tout autre individu Druse ou Maronite, viendrait à être nommé au Gouvernement de la Montagne, à se rendre à Constantinople ; circonstance qui ne manquerait pas de remettre en danger le repos et la sécurité dont ils jouissent sous le sceptre paternel de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Les déclarations de ces Cheiks ne sont que très justes et très conformes à la vérité. Moi-même j'ai acquis la conviction qu'un Gouvernement autre que celui qui existe dans ce moment, serait de nature à présenter de nombreux inconvénients, et la Montagne serait à chaque instant en proie à des troubles sans fin.

Le Trésorier de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha qui vient d'être expédié à Constantinople, est chargé, en remettant à Votre Altesse les requêtes adressées par les habitans de la Montagne, de lui faire aussi un rapport verbal sur l'état actuel des choses dans ce pays.

Pour ce qui concerne mon retour à Constantinople, je n'attends que les ordres de Sa Hautesse, pour me régler en conséquence.

(Translation.)

**I TAKE** the liberty of announcing to your Highness that the tranquillity at present enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Mountain is such as has never existed.

The present administration, by the admission of every body, leaves nothing to be wished for, and the inhabitants of the Mountain are very well satisfied with it. The Consuls of the Allied Powers, residing in this country, are the only persons who look upon matters in another light.

Deceived by information as incorrect as it is perfidious, these gentlemen continue to allege in the reports which they forward to their chiefs of Missions, that so long as a Prince of the Shehab family shall not have been placed at the head of the Mountain, it must not be expected that tranquillity should prevail there completely ; and that the return of the old Emir Beshir to power does not cease to be desired by the whole population.

The contents of the petition presented by the principal Maronite Sheiks and some members of the Shehab family to his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha, in order to be forwarded to the Sublime Porte, are calculated to prove the incorrectness of the reports of the Consuls ; and your Highness will be able to convince yourself of it by the reports of his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha.

The principal of these Sheiks proceeded in person to the Seraskier Pasha, to whom they delivered in my presence the petition in question.

They took that opportunity to express to him that they had much cause for satisfaction with the present Government of the Mountain, and that they were resolved, in case, unfortunately for them, some one of the Shehab family or any other individual, Druse or Maronite, should be



appointed to the Government of the Mountain, to proceed to Constantinople; a circumstance which could not fail to endanger the repose and security which they enjoy under the paternal sceptre of His Majesty the Sultan.

The declarations of these Sheiks are but very just and consistent with truth. I myself have acquired the conviction that any other Government than that which exists at present, would be of a nature to offer numerous inconveniences, and the Mountain would at every moment be a prey to endless troubles.

The Treasurer of his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha, who has been despatched to Constantinople, is directed, on delivering to your Highness the petitions addressed by the inhabitants of the Mountain, to make to you also a verbal report on the present state of affairs in the country.

As regards my return to Constantinople, I am only waiting for the orders of his Highness to act in conformity thereto.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 58.

*Petition addressed to the Sublime Porte by the Inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, and signed by twenty-four Sheiks.*

(Traduction.)

LES vexations que les descendants de la famille Chéhab ont constamment pris à tâche d'exercer sur les notables et les autres habitans du Liban, en sont arrivées en dernier lieu à un tel point, qu'à l'exception des gens attachés à leur service, tout le reste du peuple s'est vu réduit à l'extrémité. Aussi est-ce avec beaucoup d'empressement qu'à la nouvelle de l'arrivée à Beyrout de son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha, nous nous sommes rendus auprès de ce haut dignitaire, pour déposer à ses pieds l'hommage de notre profond respect, ainsi qu'il était de notre devoir de le faire.

En nous acquittant de ce devoir, nous avons soumis à son Altesse la prière de nous délivrer des mains de la famille Chéhab et de faire choix d'un des fidèles sujets de l'Empire, pour nous placer sous son autorité, en même tems que nous avons supplié ce haut personnage de nous faire obtenir la grâce qu'aucun des descendants de la famille Chéhab, ni des notables Druses ou Chrétiens qui habitent la Montagne, ne peut dorénavant être appelé à nous gouverner. Notre prière fut accueillie par son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha, qui fit choix, pour être notre Gouverneur, de son Excellence Omar Pacha, homme probe et loyal, et un des fidèles serviteurs de la Sublime Porte.

Délivrés par la nomination de ce fonctionnaire au Gouvernement de la Montagne, des mains de la famille Chéhab, nous en avons rendu des actions de grâces au Très-Haut, en appelant à plusieurs reprises la bénédiction du ciel sur la conservation et la durée du règne du Sultan notre Auguste Souverain.

Grâces à Dieu et à la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha, la haine et l'animosité qui régnaient entre nous, ont complètement disparu; chacun de nous a repris son ancienne position, et chaque individu s'est remis à l'exercice de l'état qui lui était transmis par son père et ses ancêtres. La confiance et la tranquillité ont commencé à renaître parmi la population, et l'éloignement des Emirs Chéhab n'a point tardé à produire l'effet qu'on était en droit de s'en attendre.

Sur ces entrefaites, quelques uns des Emirs Chéhab, les plus fameux par leur turbulence, profitant du départ de son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha pour Devar, district dépendant de la Syrie, se sont entendus avec leurs créatures et les sujets des Puissances étrangères, pour faire répandre le bruit que la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha au Gouvernement de la Montagne, aurait eu lieu contre le gré de la population, et sans son consentement, et que le retour au pouvoir de la famille Chéhab aurait été désiré par les habitans de la Montagne.

Ce bruit que ces individus ont fait courir, comme venant de la part des notables et de la population du Liban, n'a pas manqué de parvenir, à



son retour à Beyrout, à la connaissance de son Altesse le Seraskier Pacha.

Dans cet état de choses il ne nous reste qu'à implorer de la clémence Impériale, la grace de ne point prêter foi ni oreille à de pareils bruits émanés des sources si perfides.

Nous sommes tous sujets et serviteurs de la Sublime Porte; loin de vouloir consentir à être gouvernés par la famille Chéhab, ni par aucun autre individu, soit Druse ou Chrétien, nous adressons au contraire à l'Empire Ottoman, notre bienfaiteur, la très-humble prière de nous donner pour Chef un de ses fidèles serviteurs.

Nous sommes tous décidément résolus, dans le cas où les paroles perfides des gens d'une si mauvaise foi venant à prévaloir sur notre demande, on s'arrêterait au parti de nous donner pour Gouverneur un des membres de la famille Chéhab, ou quelqu'un autre des habitans de la Montagne, de nous disperser dans les différentes parties de l'Empire Ottoman, afin de nous mettre à l'abri de leurs atteintes.

Nous sommes tous prêts, s'il est besoin de le faire, à nous rendre à Constantinople, pour y déclarer verbalement, ou par écrit, que cette demande de notre part, est aussi l'expression des vœux des habitans notables et de tout le peuple de la Montagne.

(Translation.)

**THE** vexations which the descendants of the Shehab family have constantly endeavoured to exercise over the chiefs and other inhabitants of the Lebanon, have recently arrived at such a pitch, that with the exception of the persons attached to their service, the rest of the people has been reduced to extremity. Thus it is that with great alacrity, on the news of the arrival of his Highness the Seraskier Pasha at Beyrout, we betook ourselves to this high functionary, in order to lay at his feet the homage of our profound respect, as it was our duty to do.

In discharging this duty we have laid before his Highness our prayer that he would deliver us out of the hands of the Shehab family, and chose one of the faithful subjects of the Empire to place us under his authority, at the same time that we entreated this exalted person to obtain for us the indulgence that none of the descendants of the Shehab family, nor of the chief Druses or Christians who inhabit the Mountain, can henceforth be called upon to govern us. Our prayer was accepted by his Highness the Seraskier Pasha, who chose for our Governor his Excellency Omar Pasha, an upright and loyal man, and one of the faithful subjects of the Sublime Porte.

Delivered, by the nomination of this functionary to the Government of the Mountain, from the hands of the Shehab family, we have returned thanks to the Most High, invoking frequently the blessing of heaven for the preservation and endurance of the reign of the Sultan our august Sovereign.

Thanks to God, and to the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha, the hatred and animosity which prevailed among us have completely disappeared; each of us has resumed his ancient position, and every person is reinstated in the exercise of his situation, which was handed down to him from his father and from his ancestors. Confidence and tranquillity have begun to re-appear among the people, and the removal of the Shehab Emirs has not been slow in producing the effect which might have been expected from it.

Meanwhile, some of the Shehab Emirs, the most distinguished for their turbulence, taking advantage of the departure of his Highness the Seraskier Pasha for Devar, a district depending on Syria, have agreed with their creatures and the subjects of foreign Powers to spread abroad the report that the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha to the Government of the Mountain had taken place against the will of the people and without its consent, and that the return of the Shehab family to power had been desired by the inhabitants of the Mountain.

This report which these individuals propagated, as proceeding from

the chiefs and the people of the Lebanon, has not failed to come to the knowledge of his Highness the Seraskier Pasha on his return to Beyrout.

In this state of things it only remains for us to implore from the Imperial clemency the favour of not crediting or listening to such reports, proceeding from such perfidious sources.

We are all subjects and servants of the Sublime Porte; far from being willing to consent to be governed by the Shehab family, or by any other individual, either Druse or Christian, we, on the contrary, address to the Ottoman Empire, our benefactor, the most humble prayer to grant us as chief one of its faithful servants.

We are all decidedly resolved, in case, the perfidious words of such faithless people prevailing over our demand, it should be determined to give us as Governor one of the members of the Shehab family, or any other of the inhabitants of the Mountain, to scatter ourselves in the different parts of the Ottoman Empire, in order to shelter ourselves against their assaults.

We are all ready, if it is necessary to do so, to proceed to Constantinople, to declare there verbally or in writing, that this demand on our part expresses also the wishes of the chiefs and of all the people of the Mountain.

#### Inclosure 4 in No. 58.

##### *Petition from the Sheiks of Mount Druse.*

(Traduction.)

NOUS venons de rentrer sous le sceptre paternel de Sa Hautesse. Ainsi que nous l'avons déclaré dans la requête présentée par nous à son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, nous sommes entièrement aux ordres du Sultan, et nous renonçons à nous immiscer en rien qui concerne le Gouvernement de la Montagne. Nous avons accepté son Excellence Omar Pacha comme chef de la Montagne, ainsi que nous l'avons déclaré précédemment, et nous ne consentirons jamais à la nomination à cette place d'aucun des membres de la famille Chéhab.

Nous avons déclaré, en outre, que la requête présentée par les Emirs, les Cheiks et les Primats, tant Druses que Chrétiens, renfermant leur accession pleine et entière à la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha au Gouvernement de la Montagne, ne l'a été que d'un commun accord et du consentement de tous.

Or, si après cela, une des Puissances amies ou autres individus, s'avisait de prétendre que cette requête nous aurait été arrachée par force, une telle prétention ne serait ni ne pourrait être que l'effet d'insinuations perfides de ces esprits malicieux qui ont pour principe d'exagérer toujours les choses, et auxquels nous prions par cette requête que nous avons cachetée de nos propres cachets, de ne point ajouter foi.

La tranquillité qui règne dans notre pays est, en effet, telle qu'elle a été exprimée dans la requête dont il s'agit, et nous avons la ferme conviction que, sous la domination de son Excellence Omar Pacha, la situation de la Montagne finira par ne laisser plus rien à désirer.

(Translation.)

WE have just returned under the paternal sceptre of His Highness. As we have declared in the petition presented by us to his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha, we are entirely at the orders of the Sultan, and we renounce all interference in anything which concerns the Government of the Mountain. We have accepted his Excellency Omar Pasha as chief of the Mountain, as we have previously declared, and we will never consent to the nomination of any one of the Shehab family to that place.

We have, moreover, declared that the petition presented by the Emirs,

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Sheiks, and Primates, as well Druse as Christian, containing their full and entire acquiescence in the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha to the Government of the Mountain, was not presented otherwise than by common agreement, and by the consent of all.

Wherefore, if, after this, one of the friendly Powers or other individuals should undertake to pretend that this petition had been forcibly extracted from us, such an allegation would and could only be the effect of perfidious insinuation on the part of those malicious spirits whose principle it is always to exaggerate matters, and to whom we request by this petition, which we have sealed with our own seals, that no credence may be given.

The tranquillity which prevails in our country is, in fact, such as has been stated in the petition in question; and we are firmly convinced that under the rule of his Excellency Omar Pasha, the situation of the Mountain will ultimately leave nothing more to be wished for.

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Inclosure 5 in No. 58.

*Petition presented by the Notables of the Djich Family.*

(Traduction.)

NOUS, fidèles sujets de la Sublime Porte, avons l'honneur d'exposer très respectueusement, comme il est aussi de notre devoir de le faire, que la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha au Gouvernement de la Montagne, a eu lieu avec l'agrément des Emirs et de tous les Cheiks qui habitent ce pays.

Nous avons l'honneur de déclarer également, qu'un certain nombre d'individus ennemis du bon ordre, se sont réunis à Garber, chez l'Emir Abdoullah, un des membres de la famille Chéhab, et là ils ont rédigé une pétition.

Par cette pétition, qu'ils ont revêtue de faux cachets, ces individus ont déclaré que la requête précédemment présentée par eux, au sujet de leur non-adhésion à la nomination au Gouvernement de la Montagne de qui que ce soit de la famille Chéhab, avait été arrachée par force à la population, et ils l'ont remis entre les mains des Puissances, pour que celles-ci la fissent parvenir, à leur tour, à la Sublime Porte.

Au bas de cette pétition figurent aussi les noms de nos cousins que ces individus y ont appliqués, au moyen de faux cachets qu'ils ont été assez téméraires pour se les faire fabriquer.

Tel est le véritable état des choses, que nous nous empressons d'exposer ici, dans l'intérêt de la vérité.

(Translation.)

WE, faithful subjects of the Sublime Porte, have the honour most respectfully to represent, as it is also our duty to do, that the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha to the Government of the Mountain, has taken place with the consent of the Emirs and of all the Sheiks who inhabit this country.

We have the honour likewise to declare that a certain number of persons, enemies of good order, assembled at Garber at the Emir Abdallah's, one of the members of the Shehab family, and there drew up a petition.

By this petition, to which they have attached false seals, these persons have declared that the petition previously presented by them on the subject of their opposition to the nomination of any person whatever of the Shehab family to the Government of the Mountain, had been extorted from the people by force, and they have delivered it into the hands of the Powers in order that these, in their turn, may transmit it to the Sublime Porte.

At the bottom of this petition appear also the names of our cousins, which these persons have affixed to it by means of false seals, which they have been sufficiently daring to cause to be made for them.

Such is the true state of affairs, which we thus earnestly represent, out of regard for truth.

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Inclosure 6 in No. 58.

*Petition presented by the Emirs of the Shehab Family, and the Mussulman and Christian Notables.*

(Traduction.)

**NOUS** nous sommes soumis à l'ordre Impérial de Sa Hautesse qui nous a été transmis par son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, au sujet de notre délivrance de la domination tyrannique de la famille Chéhab ; ordre qui est conforme à la volonté du Tout-Puissant.

En nous plaçant sous les ordres de son Excellence Omar Pacha, dont la nomination au Gouvernement de la Montagne a eu lieu sur notre approbation pleine et entière, nous considérons le choix de ce personnage comme une faveur du ciel à notre égard ; car, depuis que nous l'avons eu pour chef, nous avons vu le bonheur et la tranquillité de notre pays se rétablir et s'accroître chaque jour davantage.

Malheureusement, nous venons d'être informés que, sur les représentations erronées de certains individus ennemis du bon ordre, les Grandes Puissances amies de la Sublime Porte, ont fait quelques démarches auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, à l'effet d'obtenir à notre préjudice, la réintégration dans son ancien poste, de la famille Chéhab.

Notre unique demande est donc, qu'on s'abstienne de prêter l'oreille à de pareilles représentations, qui n'ont rien de réel et qui ne tendent à rien moins qu'à troubler notre bonheur et notre tranquillité, que nous sommes si heureux d'avoir recouvrés par la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha.

Nous sommes prêts, s'il est nécessaire de le faire, à nous rendre à Constantinople, afin de confirmer, au nom de la population de la Montagne de toute classe et de toute religion, et en notre nom propre, tout ce que nous venons d'avancer.

Nous déclarons, en outre, dans le cas où l'on voudrait nous replacer, à tout prix, sous les ordres d'un des descendants de la famille Chéhab ou de quelque autre individu originaire de la Montagne, que nous ne manquerons pas d'aller nous établir dans d'autres pays de l'Empire Ottoman, en abandonnant les nôtres.

(Translation.)

**WE** have submitted to the Imperial order of His Highness, which has been forwarded to us by his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha, on the subject of our deliverance from the tyrannic rule of the Shehab family, which order is in conformity with the will of the Almighty.

In placing ourselves under the orders of his Excellency Omar Pasha, whose nomination to the Government of the Mountain has been effected with our full and entire approbation, we consider the selection of this person as a favour of heaven in our behalf ; for since we have had him as our chief we have beheld the happiness and tranquillity of our country re-established and augmented daily more and more.

Unfortunately, we have been informed, that upon the erroneous representations of certain persons, enemies to good order, the Great Powers friendly to the Sublime Porte, have taken some steps with the Government of his Highness, in order to procure to our prejudice the re-instatement of the Shehab family in its ancient post.

Our sole demand, therefore, is, that people should abstain from listening to such representations, which are destitute of reality, and tend to nothing

less than to disturb our happiness and our tranquillity, which we are so fortunate as to have recovered by the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha.

We are ready, if it is necessary to do so, to proceed to Constantinople, in order to confirm, in the name of the people of the Mountain of every class and of every religion, and in our own, all that we have now alleged.

Moreover, we declare, that in case it should be desired to replace us, on any terms, under the orders of one of the descendants of the Shehab family, or of any other native of the Mountain, we will not fail to proceed to establish ourselves in some other countries of the Ottoman Empire, abandoning our own.

Inclosure 7 in No. 58.

*Statement of Zutfalla Fader, Agent for the House of Murad.*

GIBRAN EL AURA, the Arabic Secretary to Mustapha Pasha, had written a few weeks ago to Emir Beshir Said Bey of Brumana, urging him to come down to this town to see the Seraskier, and that it was for his good to come down immediately.

Emir Beshir, therefore, by orders of the Pasha, came down eight days ago. As soon as he arrived, Gibran el Aura called upon him, and invited him to go together to take the air near the river of Beyrout; thus Gibran and Emir Beshir went to the river on the following day, and Gibran said as follows:

"You know, oh! Emir, that I wish you well in every respect; therefore, all my advice to you cannot but be for your good. The Seraskier wishes you to write a petition like this;" and he (Gibran) handed him a copy of a petition, the nature of which is nearly as follows:

"We, the undersigned, have formerly presented a petition to the Pasha for the Porte,—that we are anxious that the Governor of Lebanon should be such whom the Porte chooses, and that we may be entirely under the Porte's orders; and, also, that we can by no means accede to have any of the Shehabs as a Governor; and, also, we have stated, and we beg now to state, that we have every reason to be pleased with Omar Pasha's government. He is administering justice, and the country is perfectly tranquil, and now we wish that the same Governor (Omar) shall continue, and we will never submit to have any of the Shehabs; and that if any petition had been sent formerly, by the Chiefs of the Mountain to the Representatives of the friendly Powers, that must be considered false."

Emir Beshir of Brumana was surprised to see this petition, and told Gibran el Aura, "How can we sign such a petition, contrary to our wishes and interest?"

Aura replied:

"If you do not sign it you will bring upon yourself all mischief, and you will be treated as the other people in prison. This must be done, and no remedy. You must listen to what I tell you, otherwise you will repent. But if you would sign it, then I promise you the government of the districts between Maamiltein and Mudaridge. Oh! Emir Beshir, do listen to what I tell you." In short, he, Gibran, induced him to write the petition.

On the following day the Emirs were summoned by the Pasha. Emir Beshir, Emir Murad, and Emir Seid Ahmed, waited upon the Pasha, but they were conducted to the Hasnadar. The Hasnadar asked them to sign the petition, and Emir Beshir signed it; when Emir Murad delayed to annex his seal, the Hasnadar looked angry, and said:

"Do you not believe what we say? Give me this petition."

Then Emir Murad got alarmed, and immediately sealed the petition, and, of course, the rest have followed.

Gibran el Aura had told the Emirs, "Take care not to say any thing."

It was in this mode of proceeding the petition was signed.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 24.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, June 9, 1842.*

MY other despatch of this date informs your Lordship of the circumstances under which the Syrian negotiation has come to a stand. I cannot at present perceive any likelihood of our being able to overcome the resistance of the Porte without fresh instructions. I must, therefore, for my part, have recourse to your Lordship, hoping that the forced tranquillity which now subsists in Mount Lebanon, may continue for some time longer, and that the removal of the Albanian troops, and the adoption of immediate measures for the restitution of the plundered property, which I have again urged strongly at the Porte,—and not without assurances of success,—may afford some consolation to the inhabitants of that district during another anxious period of uncertainty and apprehension.

With deference to your Lordship's judgment, it appears to me that, supposing the Five Powers do not see fit to authorize the employment of stronger language by their Representatives, we have no choice but either to acquiesce in the permanent destitution of the Shehab family, or to render its restoration more palatable, by proposing to accompany it with measures tending to increase the authority of the Porte, and to secure the peace of the country. The Porte has hitherto manifested no inclination to enter into any such arrangement; but the case would, perhaps, be different, if a proposal, founded upon that principle, were addressed to her under the immediate sanction either of Her Majesty's Government alone, or of the Five Powers acting in concert.

It occurs to me that if this idea were entertained, the following outline, comprehending Prince Metternich's suggestion respecting the Druses, might possibly be found not wholly undeserving of attention. The whole Government of Syria might be entrusted to a single Pasha of the highest rank, and, under him, each district might be administered by an inferior officer,—a Christian for the Maronites, and a Druse for the Druses; the subordinate governors having no military command, except by delegation from the Chief, and their authority being purely of an administrative character. The Druses might be further indulged with having an accredited agent at the Porte; and a Turkish officer charged with communicating between the Christian Emir and the Turkish Governor-General might be stationed, perhaps even with the addition of a small military guard, at the chief place in the mountain. A firman regulating the payment of tribute, and securing the ancient privileges of the inhabitants, whether Druses or Maronites, might help to cement the arrangement. With respect to the villages of mixed population, they might be placed under the administration of those Emirs who have taken part with Mustapha Pasha, subordinate, however, to some other authority.

I am not aware that any insurmountable or even serious objection could be maintained against this plan of settlement, and the Porte being only averse to the restoration of the Shehab family, because it is her policy to exclude the Christians from any participation in the Government of the country, would not, perhaps, reject the Emir Emin under the restrictions proposed above, the moment that they felt the necessity of admitting a compromise similar to what I have suggested.

It is not without much need of your Lordship's indulgence that I venture to submit this idea for consideration, and I beg leave to add that, in the event of my being instructed to submit and recommend it to the Porte, a clear explanation of the grounds on which Her Majesty's Government decline to renounce their support of the Shehab family would be indispensable to afford it a fair chance of acceptance.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.



*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)*

(Extract.)

*Constantinople, June 17, 1842.*

SINCE I last had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the affairs of Syria, the petitions, announced by Colonel Rose, in favour of the Shehab family have been received here by one of the agents of the Maronite Patriarch, and, after some hesitation, presented by his colleague's interpreter to the Porte. I am told that the Reis Effendi, on receiving them, inquired whether any of the names subscribed were also to be found on the petitions sent up by Mustapha Pasha. Upon receiving an affirmative answer to this question, he further inquired why the petitions had not been presented through the Seraskier, and a silent smile was the reply which his Excellency obtained from the bearer of them.

I told the agents who consulted me, as I have told my colleagues who inquired what I intended to do, that the introduction of the ex-Emir Beshir's name into the petitions was a bar to any active or emphatic recommendation of them on my part, and that all I could do was to apprize the Reis Effendi of my acquaintance with the fact of their presentation, and to hold them up as an additional evidence in corroboration of what we had stated and urged at our Conference with the Turkish Ministers.

One of the Maronite Agents who had consulted me as to the presentation of the petitions, proposed to erase the Emir Beshir's name, and to leave only that of his son. I told him that I had no more advice to give upon this point than upon the other, and that, in my judgment, it was for those who were immediately concerned, to act in respect of both points as their interest and sense of duty concurred to require.

Under these circumstances, I am more than ever desirous that your Lordship should take into early and favourable consideration the suggestions contained in my last despatches. I cannot conceive in what other way the question at issue can be settled; and whether I look to the Sultan, to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, to the interests of Europe, or to those, more especially, of Great Britain, it appears to me that the least delay beyond what our present situation prescribes, is to be deprecated.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 16.)*

(Extract.)

*Constantinople, June 30, 1842.*

WITH respect to Syria, his Excellency the Reis Effendi produced the petitions presented to him by the agent of the Maronite Patriarch, together with two or three fresh documents transmitted by Mustapha Pasha. Translations of these papers are to be communicated to me; and my attention was directed to a circumstance, which, in the absence of proper explanations, appears to throw no small degree of suspicion upon the signatures and character of the petitions. It seems that, of forty individuals alleged to have signed by compulsion the petitions against the restoration of the Shehab family, only three have subscribed their names to the statement denying their having pretended to speak for the nation at large; and the remaining thirty-seven signatures, though subscribed to the counter petition, are not to be found among those which figure on the petition sent up by Mustapha Pasha.

I have engaged my word to give this circumstance and the documents, with which it is connected, every fair and reasonable consideration, observing, in the mean time, that the prayer of the petitioners went far to corroborate what I had joined with my colleagues in stating at our col-

lective conference, and referring to the opinions, which, in concert with them, I had expressed on that occasion, but not omitting to remark, that the recommendation of the ex-Emir Beshir was far from being in harmony with the wishes and impressions of Her Majesty's Government.

The Reis Effendi affirmed that none of those Ministers had as yet made any communication to the Porte respecting the newly received petitions; and, if he was not sparing in the charges of cruelty and rapacity urged against the ex-Emir Beshir, he shewed but little disposition to treat the character of his son, the Emir Emin, with more forbearance.

No. 62.

*Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 16.)*

(Extract.)

*Constantinople, June 27, 1842.*

AT the risk of exhausting your Lordship's patience, I must again revert to the question of Mount Lebanon and its inextricable affairs.

My latest accounts from Beyrout are chiefly copies of those which were addressed to your Lordship by Colonel Rose and Mr. Moore in the early part of the month. They tend but too much to corroborate the charges alleged against Mustapha Pasha, and afford additional evidence both of the extreme difficulty of bringing the country into order upon either of the two conflicting principles, and also of the extreme hazard of prolonging its present state of uncertainty, mistrust, and alarm.

A letter from Colonel Rose, addressed to myself, and dated the 11th instant, describes the agitation produced in the Kesrouan by the violent proceedings of Mustapha Pasha, and the efforts made by him and the other Consuls to maintain the Sheiks in a state of submission, which terminated in the flight of many, and the seizure of a few. Of this letter I have the honour to inclose an extract herewith, on the chance of its containing intelligence not previously known to your Lordship.

The Porte has probably received an account of the same transactions from her own agents in Syria; but I have communicated verbally to Sarim Effendi the substance of what has come to my knowledge respecting them, with a strong comment upon the impolicy and injustice which they display, and an urgent entreaty that measures of a corrective nature may be immediately adopted.

I do not venture to expect any satisfactory result from these communications. Your Lordship is already aware that the Grand Vizier, and the majority of the Council are, without exception, of the same opinion as the Seraskier, whose conduct in the great command which has been intrusted to him is, to say the least of it, so extremely reprehensible. My only real hope of effecting any improvement in that respect is founded upon the decision to be taken by Her Majesty's Government with reference to my late communications to your Lordship. The Sultan, I trust, perceives the necessity of coming to a settlement, and when he is satisfied that the Turkish view of the subject has been fairly considered by England, and judged in a friendly and unprejudiced spirit to be inadmissible, I shall be greatly disappointed if he does not adopt the advice of Her Majesty's Government, although it may not be in complete harmony with his present wishes and convictions. No such advice, I am sure, will be given without a full and dispassionate consideration of the question at issue in all its bearings, and without a sincere desire of providing for the peace of Syria and the Sultan's authority, as much as for the welfare of the Christians in Mount Lebanon.

It is impossible to deny that the question presents very great difficulties, which, although they may be in part, or chiefly, the consequences of Turkish misrule and local intrigue, are nevertheless too real and too deeply rooted to be overlooked, or set aside with indifference.

To be effectual for the maintenance of order, the reinstatement of a Christian Emir in the administration of the Mountain, will require the full

support of Turkish power. Yet Colonel Rose has expressed his apprehension that the Turkish authorities would secretly act against the Prince when reinstated in his former position.

It would be almost impossible to reunite the Druses and Christians under a Maronite Chief; and the separation of the two communities under different chiefs, would also have its difficulties, inconveniences, and dangers.

The Turks have succeeded in dividing the Christians into two parties, and arraying the passions and interests of both against each other, by reviving those feudal rights which had merged in the ascendancy of the Shehab family, and by sanctioning claims to property long since confiscated.

It would, further, be a great mistake to suppose that all the personal virtues and sound principles of government wanting on the side of the Turks, are to be found in full perfection on the side of the Christians.

Her Majesty's Consul at Beyrout, in writing upon this subject, remarks, that the whole body of the Lebanon chiefs, not excepting even the clergy, is corrupt; and again, that while the mass of the people would prefer a Christian Prince, the results of his restoration to power are now become very problematical.

The appearances of support by a considerable portion of the Sheiks and Emirs, though obtained in favour of a Turkish Governor by corrupt means, are, to a certain degree, embarrassing; especially when many who have signed the petitions on that side, declare their readiness to come up to Constantinople, and confirm their signatures by personal testimony. Some at least among those petitioners must be influenced by strong motives of interest; and they can hardly have failed to raise an insurmountable barrier between themselves and the party to which they are opposed.

In many instances the ancient ties which bound the Chiefs to their dependents, and formed so many links in the chain of social order, must now be greatly weakened, if not altogether broken and dissolved.

Other considerations of scarcely less importance deserve to be kept in view.

There is nothing in the whole series of recent events but what is calculated to deprive the Maronite population of all self-confidence. They have done nothing for themselves, and in every direction they have found either hostile neighbours, faithless protectors, or uncertain friends. The general preference of the Shehab family does not appear to be of an ardent or enthusiastic character. It would seem to be the offspring of custom and comparison, rather than of positive approbation and attachment.

Quite as much confidence would seem to be placed in the vigour of the old Emir Beshir, as in the untried merits of his son. The agents of the Patriarch would not scruple to insert either, or almost any, name, in the petitions committed to them for presentation to the Porte.

It may also be remarked, that the task of a Christian Emir, replaced in the government of the Mountain, is becoming daily more difficult, not only with respect to the Druses, but even in reference to his own people. While the power of the Porte is exercised with greater mildness and regularity than heretofore, the faults and oppressions of an ignorant local chief are more likely to be felt and resented, in proportion as the mountaineers are shaken out of their old habits, and acquire, by painful experience, a wider range of comparison and observation.

In connexion with these sources of doubt and perplexity, there remains that partial difficulty which bears upon the districts inhabited by a mixed population of Druses and Christians.

Upon a review of all these circumstances, and others which will not escape your Lordship's penetration, I cannot look forward without anxiety and apprehension to the future condition of Mount Lebanon, whatever may be the ultimate decision of the Allies or of the Porte. It bids fair to become a standing field of battle for the array of adverse systems of hostile passions; and there is but too much reason to doubt the possibility of preventing this evil by a simple unaided reinstatement of the deposed family, even if that be practicable without the employment of stronger